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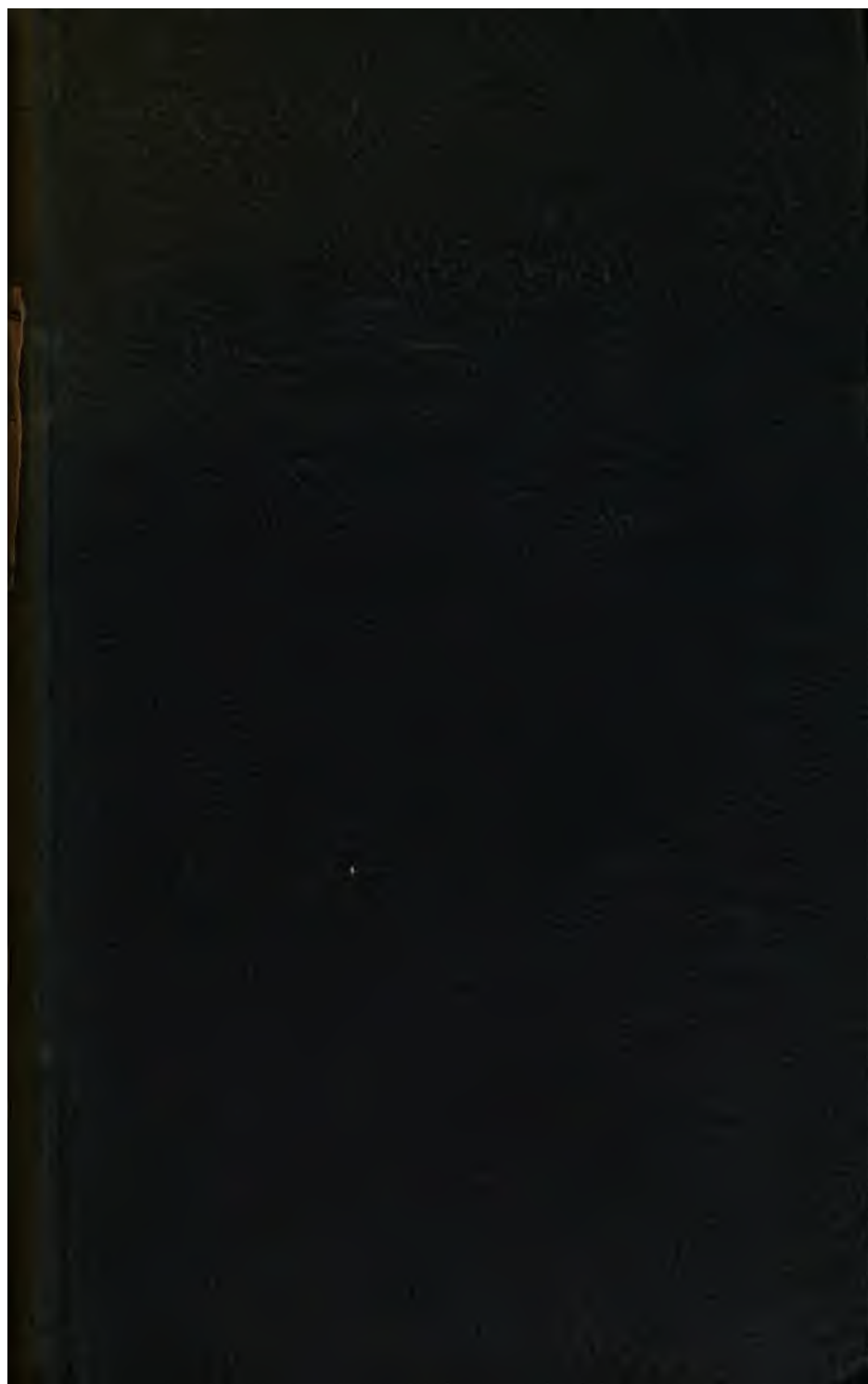
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Antiquarian and Topographical

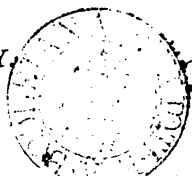
SKETCHES

OF

HAMPSHIRE,

BY

HENRY MOODY.



Not proud Olympus yields a nobler sight,
Though gods assembled grace his towering height,
Than what our more humble mountains offer here,
Where in their blessings, all those gods appear.
See Pan with flocks, with fruits Pomona crown'd,
Here blushing Flora paints th' enamel'd ground;
Here Ceres' gifts in waving prospect stand,
And nodding tempt the joyful reaper's hand.—POPE.

WINCHESTER:

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1846.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following Sketches, which were originally written for, and appeared in the Hampshire Advertiser Newspaper, have assumed their present form in compliance with the expressed wishes of many of their readers. Since their first publication, they have been carefully revised, and extended, so as to embrace a notice of every parish within the limits of the county.

The Author freely admits that a more extended description, of the Antiquities and Topography of Hampshire, than that contained in the following pages, is desirable, if not required, since, there is hardly a County in England of its extent, population, and importance, which is so sadly deficient of a good History; but, as his object is to offer to the inhabitants of Hampshire, in general, the means of acquiring a knowledge of the places and things with which they may be familiar, he was induced to prefer the present condensed and cheap form, to that of a more extended, and consequently more expensive, notice.

From a desire of not unnecessarily extending the work and of interrupting the subject, the Author has, in many instances, omitted to mention the Authorities for the facts which he narrates, and he here takes the opportunity of acknowledging that he has derived many of his statements from Leland's *Itinerary*, Camden's *Magna Brittainia*, Warner's *Hampshire*, Sir Richard Worsley's *History of the Isle of Wight*, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Milner's *History of Winchester*, Bayley and Britton's *Beauties of England and Wales*, the *Sketches of Hampshire* by the late John Duthy, esq. and from several of the local papers, read at the respective meetings, at Winchester, of the British Archæological Association, and the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. The statistical tables, at the commencement of the several Sketches, are taken from the Returns made in compliance with a recent order of the Court of Quarter Sessions.

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SKETCHES

OF

HAMPSHIRE.

INTRODUCTION.—THE COUNTY IN GENERAL.

Divisions.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Alton	60410	£56295	18094
Andover	90540	83078	14903
Basingstoke	70100	75117	12534
Droxford	48600	42890	10281
Fareham	54640	95946	34953
Kingsclere	70410	59625	13024
Lymington & New Forest	127190	57886	20442
Odiham	61090	62313	14081
Petersfield	64720	42080	11277
Ringwood	6740	72077	18572
Romsey	50980	49072	11426
Southampton	27850	62284	12052
Winchester	116240	118209	19468
Isle of Wight. . . .	86730	142907	38692
Boroughs.			
Andover	7670		4941
Portsmouth	5090		53032
Southampton	1970	137406	27744
Winchester	850	41453	10732

HAMPSHIRE, or, according to legal documents, the County of Southampton, is the eighth of the counties of England in respect to extent, and fifteenth as regards population. With the exception of the Isle of Wight its form approaches nearer to that of a perfect square than

that of any other county in the kingdom. It is bounded on the north by Berkshire, by Surrey and Sussex on the east, and by Wiltshire and Dorsetshire on the west. On the south the mainland is separated from the Isle of Wight by a narrow channel, known as the Solent, averaging three miles over, but in one part less than one mile. The entire county comprises an area of 1628 square miles, or 1,041,900 statute acres, and contained, in 1841, a population of 354,940 persons, being about 218 to every square mile.

Previous to the Roman invasion, the county appears to have been divided between three tribes, the Regni who occupied the south-eastern extremity, the Belgæ who inhabited the middle portion, and extended into Wiltshire and Dorsetshire, and the Attrebates, who occupied the Berkshire border. The British name is said to have been Gwent, or Y Went, a term descriptive of open downs, and hence the appellation of Caer Gwent, or the city of the Gwentians, to Winchester.

This portion of the kingdom was subdued by the Romans under the command of Vespasian, about the middle of the 1st century. The present county, included in the province of Britannia Magna, was intersected by numerous Roman roads, and contained two cities, Venta (Winchester) and Silchester; and stations at Portchester, Clausentum near Southampton, Brigæ at Broughton, and Andaoreon at Andover.

Upon the invasion of England by the Saxons, Hampshire was the scene of many severe contests. In the year 550, Cerdic, the founder of the kingdom of the West Saxons, landed near Christchurch, and having defeated the Britons in the parish of Eling, made himself master of Winchester. This kingdom which was destined to subdue and incorporate with itself the other portions of the Heptarchy, was at first of small extent, comprehending no more than the counties of Hants and Berks, the Salisbury Avon being for a time its western boundary. From the numerous encampments, earth-work fortifications, &c. yet visible in the western part of the county, it appears that the Britons did not allow

their opponents to possess their dominion without numerous severe struggles.

During the hostile visits of the Northmen or Danes, in the ninth and tenth centuries, Hampshire was frequently invaded and ravaged by them; and in the reign of Ethelbert, a body of them landed at Southampton and advanced to Winchester, which they partially laid waste, but they were routed as they returned to their ships, and much of their booty recovered.

At the Norman Conquest the county appears to have been of the same extent as it is at present, and was divided into fifty hundreds, and the Domesday Book shows that it contained, exclusive of the Isle of Wight, about three hundred manors, of which seventy-five were held by the king, and thirty-five by the Bishop of Winchester, and that the remainder were principally divided between the powerful chieftains, Hugh de Port and Ralph de Mortimer, the monks of Winchester cathedral, and the several monastic establishments of the county, then in existence. By the same authority it appears that there was at that time on the mainland of Hampshire, with the exception of the city of Winchester, only 110 churches and the amazing number of 226 mills.

As the historical events connected with the county will be noticed in the description of the places in which they occurred, any mention of them here is unnecessary. The most ancient division of the county is into hundreds, of which there are now thirty-nine, besides liberties, but these have in a great measure been superseded by magisterial or sessional divisions, eleven in number, exclusive of the boroughs of Andover, Portsmouth, Southampton, and Winchester; eight of them, namely, those of Alton, Andover, Basingstoke, Droxford, Kingsclere, Odiham, Petersfield and Winchester, are situated in North Hants, or the northern division of the county, and five of them, namely, Fareham, Lyminster and the New Forest, Ringwood, Romsey, and Southampton; whilst the remaining one, that of the Isle of Wight, comprises the several parishes in that island. At the present time an alteration is being made as

respects the parishes which form these divisions, and as there is every reason to expect that the alterations recommended by the committee, will be almost immediately carried into effect by the Court of Quarter Sessions, it is thought advisable to give a statement of what portions of the county they will comprise hereafter instead of what they do at the present moment, and which appears in the *Appendix A*.

The parishes of the county are distributed into twenty-five Poor Law Unions, (*Appendix B*.) having their respective places of management in Hampshire, with the exception of Alverstoke, which is not in union; Coombe, in the Hungerford Union; Aldershott, Long Sutton, Farnborough, Yately, Bramshott, Kingsley and Headley in the Farnham Union, and Newtown in the Newbury Union; and also the tythings of Ambersham, Hampreston and Stratfield Mortimer, which belong to the Midhurst, Wimbourn, and Bradfield Unions.

Hampshire, previous to the passing of the Reform Act, returned twenty-six members to Parliament, viz. two for the county, two for the city of Winchester, and two respectively for the boroughs of Andover, Christchurch, Lymington, Newport, Newton, Petersfield, Portsmouth, Southampton, Stockbridge, Whitchurch and Yarmouth; but at present the number is nineteen, namely, two for each division of the county, one for the Isle of Wight, two each for Andover, Lymington, Newport, Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester, and one each for Christchurch and Petersfield. The place of election for North Hants is Winchester, and the polling places are—Alton, Andover, Basingstoke, Bishop's Waltham, Kingsclere, Odiham, Petersfield and Winchester. For South Hants the election takes place at Southampton, in addition to which the votes are polled at Fareham, Havant, Lymington, Ringwood and Romsey. The Isle of Wight, for Parliamentary purposes, is a county of itself; the election is held at Newport, and the polling places are Newport, Cowes, and Ryde. The number of registered votes at the last revision (1845) were, for North Hants 3353, South Hants 5687, and the Isle of Wight 715.

Hampshire is included in the diocese of Winchester and the province of Canterbury, the former of which embraces the county of Surrey and the Channel Islands, and constitutes the archdeaconry of Winchester, which is divided into the deaneries of Alresford, Alton, Andover, Basingstoke, Droxford, Fordingbridge, Sombourne, Southampton, Winchester, and the Isle of Wight. The number of benefices are, according to the bishop's registers, 154 rectories, 72 vicarages, 125 perpetual curacies, besides donative curacies over which the bishop has no controul. Of the two first—fourteen are in the patronage of the crown, forty-eight, of which forty-three are rectories, in that of the bishop, and thirteen in that of Queen's College, Oxford.

The surface of the county is irregular, and its soils various. It is intersected by two ranges of chalky hills, known as the North and South Downs, both crossing it from the south-east to the north-west. The report drawn up for the consideration of the Board of Agriculture, divides the mainland into five districts:—the first, called the "woodland division," occupying the northern portion of the county, comprises rather more than 100,000 acres, the soil of which is generally of a strong brown and grey loam, resting on a tough blue and yellow clay, having generally an excessive moisture with numerous unsound and boggy places in which the Lodden, Blackwater, and other tributaries to the Kennet take their rise. The second division comprises the great body of the county, estimated at 450,000 acres, and consists of numerous elevations. the substrata of which is chalk, intersected by numerous hollows through which streams, rising on elevated tracts, wend their way towards the sea. The third division comprises only 50,000 acres, to the north of Petersfield, the soil of which is for the most part a grey sandy loam lying on a kind of soft sand rock, being provincially termed "malmy land." The fourth division consists of the whole southern part of the county, excepting a small tract at its south-eastern extremity, and comprises about 330,000 acres, and includes the ancient forest of Bere,

Waltham Chase and the New Forest. Its soils are various, but consist principally of light sandy and gravelly loams, intermixed with clay and brick earth, resting upon a substrata of argillaceous and calcareous marl. The fifth division is confined to Hayling and Portsea Islands, and a small tract of land immediately opposite to them, and comprises an area of no more than 27,000 acres, and consists in general of a strong flinty and tender hazel-coloured loam.

Of the several systems of agriculture adopted throughout the county nothing will be said. Towards the Surrey border hops are grown to a considerable extent, and in the market realize a price second only to those of Farnham. The land devoted to their culture throughout the county has been estimated at 1,600 acres.—Hampshire has long been famed for the quality of its bacon and for the flavour of its heath honey, whilst in the New Forest a vast number of small light horses or ponies are bred, known as *Foresters*, which are unequalled for their untiring perseverance. The forests of the county were, in the olden time, numerous and extensive, but the whole of them have either been reduced or enclosed. The New Forest, a wild sterile tract in the south-western portion of the county, comprises an area of 92,000 acres, the greater portion of which is crown land. At the period of the Norman Conquest it was probably a wooded tract, thinly peopled, and was then known by the name of Ytene. It is asserted by some ancient writers that the forest was formed by William the Conqueror, but this statement is evidently untrue from the mention made of its several manors in the Domesday Book, which shows what manors were previously in the forest, and what were thrown into it by the king, records not only the worth of each manor at the time, but what it was worth in the reign of Edward the Confessor. William considerably increased its limits so as to include the whole tract of land between the Southampton estuary on the east, and the river Avon on the west; but there is little foundation for the statements made by William of Malmesbury and other

monastic writers, that to extend its limits he destroyed twenty-two, thirty-six or fifty churches, exterminated the inhabitants of the district, and despoiled all human habitations and appearance of cultivation. This is not only contradicted by the entries in the Domesday Book, but also by the nature of the soil, which is of the most sterile character, and incapable of supporting a large population. No one who has passed through the forest, and seen its marshy vallies and naked and hungry uplands, not clothed like our Hampshire downs, in general, with the velvety carpet of a green sward, but scarcely producing moss and fern, can ever imagine them to have been at one time redolent with corn and grain. It is remarkable that no traces of the destroyed churches have been discovered, and it is worthy of note, that while the whole number of churches which existed on the mainland of Hampshire at the period of the compilation of the Domesday Book, amounted, with the exception of those in the city of Winchester, to no more than 100, so many should be claimed for a district of such small extent and with a soil of so unfertile a character.

The principal officers of the New Forest are the Lord Warden, the Riding Forester, the Bow Bearer, the Woodward, Steward, four Verderers, and twelve Regarders, of which the Lord Warden, Riding Forester and Woodward, are appointed by the crown. The present warden is His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, who has the general superintendence of the Forest, appoints the bow bearer, steward, and keepers, and holds in virtue of his office the manor of Lyndhurst and the hundred of Redbridge. His emoluments are the possession of the Queen's House at Lyndhurst, and the pannage, herbage, and the rent of tenements, amounting altogether to £200. The riding forester, whose duty it is to ride before the Queen whenever Her Majesty visits the New Forest, has a salary of £500 per annum. The bow bearer is required to attend the sovereign with bows and arrows, but has no other emolument than 40s. and a buck and doe annually; whilst the woodward has a salary of £200 per annum.

The four verderers, generally gentlemen resident within, or in the neighbourhood of the Forest, are elected by the freeholders of the county, in case of a vacancy at a court held for that purpose, at Winchester. They are the judges of the Swanimote and Attachment courts, but receive no salary or other emolument, save a buck and doe yearly. The regarders, likewise chosen by the freeholders, are required to attend the marking of all trees to be felled, value timber for sale, and to attend the sales. The profit of this office does not amount to £20 per annum, yet it often costs a candidate double or treble that sum to be elected.

About three and twenty years since there was a severe contest for the office, which lasted nearly a week. The candidates were a coach proprietor residing at Otterbourne, and a publican of Winchester. The strength of Jehu lay in the southern, and that of Boniface in Winchester and the northern portion of the county. The polling commenced on a Thursday; till Saturday evening both parties kept pretty equal on the poll; but between three and four in the afternoon it appeared that the entire strength of both candidates was exhausted, and they were at that time equal, each having recorded the same number of votes; a fictitious vote saved the majority for Boniface, which was duly blazoned forth by hand-bills the same evening. On Monday the struggle was recommenced; but before the closing of that day's poll Boniface was nearly a hundred ahead of his opponent, which was occasioned by a large influx of voters from Andover, brought to Winchester at the expense of his brewer and landlord. On Tuesday the case of Jehu appeared hopeless, and by the advice of his friends he resigned, and Boniface was declared duly elected. Many parliamentary elections, city and county, have failed to excite the interest which the contest for this petty office occasioned. Every day hundreds of persons assembled in the County Hall, and not only the freeholders of the city and neighbourhood, but even in some of the distant parts of the county,

were canvassed as if the salvation of the county depended on the return of a coach proprietor, or mine host of the 'Five Bells.' Those who were unwell or unable to reach the hall, were brought up in carts, gigs, &c. whilst several public-houses were opened for the refreshment of the voters, and to cheer up the spirits and unloosen the tongues of the friends of the candidates. In order that all things should be conducted in an election style, a public dinner was shortly after given to the successful candidate, who on that occasion was not only the honoured guest but the caterer of the feast, which took place on St. Giles's Hill under a spacious marquee, which was announced by the firing of a number of small cannon. Such was the election of a Regarder of the New Forest in 1822, which, although it might be considered a party triumph, and might for the time feed the vanity of the conqueror, was in the result his ruin.

In addition to the above-mentioned officers of the Forest, there is a Purveyor of Wood for the Navy, and a Deputy Surveyor of the Forest, appointed by the Surveyor General. The duty of the former, who is an officer of the dock yard at Portsmouth, is to assign timber for the use of the navy, and to prevent any fit for naval use from being cut for any other purposes; and that of the latter is to execute all warrants for felling timber for the navy, or for the sale of wood or timber, or executing any other works in the Forest. The chief value of the New Forest is for the raising of oak and beech timber for the use of the navy. The oaks seldom rise into lofty stems, their branches are most commonly twisted into the most picturesque forms. The scenery of the Forest is remarkable for its sylvan beauty, and is thus noticed by the late Rev. W. Gilpin in his *Remarks on Forest Scenery*:—"Its woody scenes, its extended lawns, and vast sweeps of wild country, unlimited by artificial boundaries, together with its river views and distant coasts, are all in a great degree magnificent. It must still, however be remembered, that

its chief characteristic, and what it rests on for distinction, is not *sublimity* but *syloan beauty*. Its lawns and woods are everywhere divided by large districts of heath; many of these woods have formerly been, as many of the heaths at present are, of vast extent, running several miles without interruption. Different parts too, both of the open and woody country, are so high as to command extensive distances, although no part can in any degree assume the title of mountainous."

The forest of Bere, situated to the north of Portsdown hill, which has been wholly enclosed, comprises 16,000 acres, and had also its warden, verderers, and regards Waltham Chase is an extensive waste belonging to the Bishop of Winchester, and the forest of Alice Holt and Woolmer, on the confines of Surrey and Sussex, is the property of the crown, and consists of about 15,000 acres.

The principal Hampshire rivers are the Test, the the Itchen, the Arle or Titchfield stream, the Hamble, the Boldre and the Ex. The Test rises in the parish of Ashe, and taking a south-westerly course passes the town of Whitchurch, below which it is joined by the Hurstbourne stream, and at Wherwell, first by a stream which has its source in Stratton Park, and then by the Anton, and at Bossington it is augmented by the Wallop stream, or Nine Mile Water, and taking a southerly course it falls into the Southampton estuary at Redbridge. The Itchen is formed by the union of three streams about a mile to the south of Alresford; one of these, considered the parent stream, takes its rise in the parish of Kilmiston; another, in the parish of Bishop's Sutton; and the third, at Preston Candover. From the junction of these streams the course of the river is to the west as far as Worthy, then turns to the south and flows past Winchester to Southampton. The Arle rises in the parish of East Meon; first takes a north-westerly, then a direct westerly, and lastly, a south-westerly course, and falls into the sea below Titchfield. The Hamble is formed by the union of several small streams

in Waltham pond from which it issues, and passing by Botley and Bursledon pours its waters into the Southampton estuary. The Ex and Boldre streams, both of which take their rise in the New Forest, discharge their streams into the Solent within a few miles of each other. In addition to the above may be mentioned the Embourn, the Lodden and the Blackwater, all of which take their rise in the northern part of the county, but soon quit it in their passage to the Kennet; and also the Salisbury Avon, which enters the county from Wiltshire at Charford, and falls into Christchurch bay, having first formed a junction with the Stour from Dorsetshire.

The canals of the county are three in number, the Itchen, the Andover, and Basingstoke; of which the first, from Winchester to Northam, near Southampton, was constructed as early as the reign of Charles II. The Andover canal commences at Andover, and is carried along the valley of the Anton and Test rivers by Stockbridge and Romsey to Redbridge. The Basingstoke canal is partly in Hampshire and partly in Surrey, and extends from Basingstoke by a circuitous route to the river Wey, a distance of thirty-seven miles.

The only railway as yet completed in Hampshire is the South Western, from Southampton to London, and its branch from Bishopstoke to Gosport. The stations on the original line are at Southampton, Bishopstoke, Winchester, Mitcheldever, known as the Andover Road Station, Basingstoke, Winchfield and Farnborough; and on the branch at Bishopstoke, Botley, Fareham and Gosport. Another branch is in the course of construction from Bishopstoke to Salisbury with an intermediate station at Romsey. The Southampton and Dorchester line, also in hand, will have stations at Eling, Brockenhurst, and Ringwood.

The number of turnpike trusts in Hampshire, as ascertained in 1835, is 36; the number of miles of road under their charge is 810; the annual income in 1835, arising from the tolls and parish composition, was—

£30,321. 13s. 6d ; and the annual expenditure amounted to £29,894. 11s. 7d.

By the returns of the last census, it appears that the population of the county amounted to 355,004, of which 175,028 were males, and 179,981 females; that the number of inhabited houses was 47,044, uninhabited, 2,001, and in course of erection, 335. The population at former periods is shewn by the following Table :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1801	105,667	113,989	219,656
1811	118,855	126,225	245,080
1821	138,373	144,925	283,298
1831	152,082	162,183	314,265

SKETCH II.

WINCHESTER—HISTORIC SKETCH.

"The same I am ere ancient order was,
Or what is now received. I witness to
The times that brought them in; so shall I do
To the fresher things now reigning, and make stale
The glistening of the present." SHAKESPEARE.

WINCHESTER has existed, either as a city, town, or settlement, nearly, or quite two thousand years. It is asserted, by some ancient writers, and is inscribed on the City Tables, preserved in the Muniment Room, that the city was built 892 years before the birth of Christ by a king, named Ludor Rous Hudibras. This is no more than an idle tale, though there are cogent reasons for the belief that it existed long prior to the Roman Invasion of Britain, and was then called *Caer Gwent*, or the White City, an appellation, according to Camden, conferred on it from the colour of its soil and the hills of chalk by which it was surrounded.

That it was a place of considerable importance during the period of the Roman supremacy in Britain is shown by the number of roads which diverged from it, enumerated in the preceeding Sketch, and the quantity of tessellated pavement, coins, and other unquestionable Roman remains, which have, from time to time, been discovered within its walls. It now obtained the name of *Venta Belgarum*, and it is probable that the word Winchester is no more than a corruption of *Venta*, to which has been added the Saxon term *chester*, signifying a place which had been occupied as a Roman station. The city was strongly fortified by a wall and ditch, forming an irregular parallelogram, nearly two miles in circumference, whilst the sites of the present cathedral and college were occupied by heathen temples dedicated to Apollo and Concord.

Upon the invasion of this country by the Saxons the city fell into the hands of barbarians, who destroyed all marks of civilization and perverted the cathedral, (for according to ancient writers the temple of Apollo had been converted into a Christian church), and rendered it subservient to celebration of the rites of Woden and other Saxon deities, and in it Cerdic was crowned first king of the West Saxons or Wessex, about the year 518.

Towards the middle of the seventh century, Kenegils, king of Wessex, having embraced Christianity, the Pagan temple was destroyed, and a cathedral was erected on its foundations, and in it Egbert, having rendered tributary the other kings of the Saxon heptarchy, is said to have been crowned, by the title of *The First King of all the Angles, or English*, in 827. Although this is stated by a very ancient authority, and has been generally adopted, there are strong reasons for doubting whether the ceremony ever took place, and whether Egbert has a just claim to be considered as the founder of the English monarchy. In the Saxon Chronicle he is dignified by the title of *Bretwalder*, signifying the most powerful member of the heptarchy; but, neither Egbert, nor any of his successors, for three generations, is called other than king of the West Saxons. It was not till more than a century from the time alluded to, that England can be said to have formed one kingdom, namely in the reign of Athelstan, the grandson of, and the second in succession from, Alfred the Great. At the union of the several kingdoms of the heptarchy, Winchester the capital of the state, which, like Aaron's rod had swallowed up the rest, became the metropolis of England. It was not only the seat of government during the reigns of our sovereigns of the Saxon and Danish lines, but was the usual scene of their coronations, and their place of sepulchre.

It is asserted in a Manuscript History of Winchester that a Guild of Merchants was established here, under Royal protection, as early as the year 856. About the same period, King Ethelwolf having convened here the Council of the Nation, granted a charter enforcing the

payment of tythes throughout the kingdom, which instrument, having been signed by himself, his vassals, the kings of Mercia and East Anglia, and the assembled prelates and thanes, was solemnly deposited on the high altar of the cathedral. In the year 971, the Danes, who had landed at Southampton, marched to Winchester, and having made themselves masters of it, reduced it to a heap of ruins. During the reign of Alfred the Great, it regained its former prosperity, and being the seat of government, here were the wise laws of that renowned monarch enacted. In the reign of Athelstan Winchester possessed six mints for the coinage of money whilst London had but three. During the latter portion of the Saxon period London probably exceeded Winchester both in population and importance, a supposition I have been led to adopt, not only from the more frequent mention of the former in our English histories as connected with the then passing events, but also from the fact, that after the decisive-victory at Hastings, the first object of the Conqueror was to obtain possession of London as the most important step towards the entire subjugation of the kingdom.

Yet even after the Conquest, for nearly the period of a century, Winchester was perhaps the first city in rank and dignity in the kingdom. Here was the royal treasury, and here also the Monarchs of the Norman line held their courts or the chief festival of the Catholic Church, namely Easter. William the Conqueror was too politic not to adopt the same means to overawe the citizens of a place, which, by a contemporary writer is described as being "noble and powerful, and inhabited by a race of men, opulent, fearless, and perfidious," as he had recourse to in London. Accordingly we find that whilst he was engaged in the erection of the celebrated Tower he committed to Fitz Osborne, the bravest and most favoured of his generals, the care of raising a similar structure at Winchester. It was during the reign of the Conqueror's youngest son, Henry I. now somewhat more than seven hundred years ago, that

Winchester is said to have attained the zenith of its prosperity. Here was a royal palace, two noble castles, one on the site of the present barracks, and the other at Wolvesey; three monasteries, founded by royalty, besides other religious houses of less note, with an incredible number of churches and chapels. We are further told that the city extended to Worthy on the north, to Magdalene Hill on the east, to St. Cross on the south, and to Week on the west, or in other words a mile further every way than it does at present.

Having arrived at this very important period in the history of Winchester, I will raise the enquiry whether Winchester was in the reign of Henry I, more populous and extended further than it does in the reign of Victoria. The principal ground for supposing Winchester to have been more populous then than it is at present, is the vast number of churches which then existed. I will suppose, for the sake of argument, that the whole of the churches mentioned by Dr. Milner, and others, being about *sixty-five*, in addition to the eight which still remain, were in existence at the same time. It must not be supposed that the whole, or even the greater portion of these churches were of the size and capacity of those which remain. It was the age in which the erection and endowment of churches and religious houses was in fashion, often for private devotion or compunction; and at a time when the spiritual powers of the Church were at their highest. From the small extent of the sites of several of them it is clear that they did not exceed from 30 to 40 feet in length, and of proportionate breadth, many of them in all probability were no other than oratories, served occasionally by the members of the Cathedral Priory, or Hyde Abbey. We must also bear in mind, as facts diminishing the capabilities of these churches, that there were no galleries in those days, that a large proportion of every church was required for the service of the altar, that space was required for processions, and that when there were three aisles there were also three altars, with the required space for each. The greater portion

of these churches stood within the walls, or the city properly so called; those in the suburbs not amounting to more than ten or twelve, including the chapels of St. Giles and St. Catherine, on those hills. Now there must have been at least sixty churches or chapels within the walls, and it is not likely that if the suburbs extended so far as Tressell tells us that they did, they would have been so scantily provided with the means and inducements to religious worship, which were so abundantly provided within the walls. Of the city, full one quarter was occupied by the royal palace, which occupied the site of the present square; the Cathedral establishment; St. Grimbald's Abbey, to the north of the Cathedral; St. Mary's Abbey, which occupied nearly the whole space surrounded by the High and Colebrook streets, and the Bishop's castle at Wolvesey. Again, houses now stand on the ground formerly occupied by the city wall and ditch, thus leaving to the inhabitants a very small limit for a population much greater than the present, namely 11,000. That the number of churches is no criterion as to the amount of population is still further confirmed by reference to other cities. Thus the ancient city of London, then extending no further westward than Ludgate, and eastward than Aldgate, contained more than one hundred churches, with a population infinitely less than at present. The number of churches at York at one time amounted to above fifty; now, with a far greater population, its churches do not amount to thirty. The same will be found to be the case at Norwich, Ipswich, Lincoln, Canterbury, Exeter, and other ancient cities. For these reasons I am inclined to believe that although Winchester has fallen from the rank of the second city of the realm into comparative insignificance, still that its actual population and extent are little less than they were in the city's most palmy day.

The first blow to the prosperity of Winchester was a dreadful fire, which destroyed the royal palace, two abbeys, twenty churches, and the whole of the northern portion of the town. This took place in 1141, during

the reign of King Stephen, who had usurped the throne to the prejudice of the Empress Matilda, the daughter of Henry I. In the second year of his reign, a synod of the prelates was held in this city, to protest against the conduct of the King, who had seized upon several of their castellated mansions, which he, at the commencement of his reign, had allowed them to fortify. Henry de Blois, Bishop of Winchester, was one of the aggrieved, as he had fortified in the strongest manner his episcopal palaces at Winchester, Waltham, Merton and Taunton, and he now acted as president. At his suggestion a deputation of the prelates waited upon the King, then residing in the castle, but who instead of giving them an audience, immediately departed for London. At this juncture Matilda landed on the coast of Sussex, and by the aid of the discontented barons and enraged prelates, defeated her rival and made him prisoner. Even the Bishop of Winchester, who for a time wavered between the contending parties, thought it politic to make his peace with the most powerful, and agreed to acknowledge Matilda's claim to the throne—and even to crown her in his cathedral. Within a year she had disgusted the bishop as well as numbers of her subjects, by her haughtiness, and having summoned him to attend her at the castle, he returned the ambiguous answer "I will prepare myself," which in truth he did by putting his episcopal residence, called Wolvesey, in the best condition possible to stand a siege. It was immediately invested by the forces of the enemy, but relief pouring in under the command of William de Ipres, the assailants were obliged to act on the defensive. For several weeks the city may be said to have been the battle-field of the contending parties, who when too severely pressed, could retreat to their respective strongholds. To dislodge the forces of the Empress, who held the northern part of the town, the friends of Stephen and the bishop threw fire-balls, by which they effected their purpose, in obliging their opponents to take refuge in the castle, whilst by the same means the greatest and most populous portion of the city and suburbs

were reduced to ashes. The castle was now invested with every probability of its being soon obliged to surrender from the want of provisions. In this extremity, the Empress, her natural brother the Earl of Gloucester, and about sixty of their attendants, found means to effect their escape, but were pursued to Stockbridge, where the Earl was made prisoner. It is said however that the escape was effected by means of a false report, that the Empress was dead, and that permission was granted by the besiegers for her corpse to be brought out for interment, and that she was actually enclosed in a lead coffin, and placed on a bier, and in this manner passed through the ranks of the enemy; but this statement I set down as forming a part of the Apocrypha of the History of Winchester. In the reign of Henry II. the city partially recovered its importance, but from this period it received no more than casual visits from royalty. In the year 1184, Henry granted a charter to the city, by which it was to be governed by a Mayor, being twenty years before London enjoyed the like honour, and also that the citizens belonging to its guild with all their merchandize were made free of all duties and customs throughout the kingdom.

Richard I. granted a charter to the citizens exempting them from the obligation of pleading without their own walls, and in 1195, upon his return from captivity, and the Holy Land, was here crowned for the second time. By a charter obtained from King John in 1207, the citizens possessed the fee farm of their town for ever, which virtually made the corporation a great barony, with the right of electing their own magistrates. Six years later, there took place in Winchester an event of great importance, but one highly disgraceful to its principal actor. John to obtain a withdrawal of the sentence of excommunication passed against him, by the Pope, agreed to hold the kingdom of England and Lordship of Ireland, as a fief of the Holy See, and to pay an annual tribute to the same, and having laid his crown at the feet of Pandolph the Papal legate, in the chapter house of the cathedral, received absolution from him.

Henry III. was born at Winchester, and appears to have always retained a partiality for the place of his nativity, which in return adhered to him throughout his continual disputes with the Barons. During this and the following reign, several Parliaments were held in the city, and in 1285, here were passed the celebrated ordinances known as *the Statutes of Winchester*.

Shortly after the deposition and murder of Edward II. a Parliament was held in the castle, which, at the suggestion of the Mortimers, attainted of high treason and condemned to death, Edmund Earl of Kent, the King's brother, who was beheaded without the castle, after waiting the whole day before a person could be found to execute the bloody office. The next year another Parliament was also held here, by which Mortimer was impeached as a traitor, and his creatures, Sir John Deverell and Sir John Maltravers condemned to death.

The commerce and importance of Winchester which had been gradually declining for the space of two centuries, experienced a revival in the reign of Edward III, in consequence of that monarch having selected it as the site of the principal Wool Mart for the kingdom. The king pledged his word to the citizens that the mart should not be removed, on the strength of which large warehouses and other buildings were erected, in that part of the town, known as *Staple Garden*; but within thirty years the Wool Mart was removed to Calais, by the same authority which had conferred it on Winchester. The effects of this measure cannot be more graphically described than in the words of Milner: "Winchester had frequently arisen from sieges and fires with fresh vigour and splendour; she had also often recruited her population after destructive pestilences; but this sudden drying up of her trade and commerce, after the extraordinary exertions she had made to increase them, she was never afterwards able to repair; and henceforth her decline in wealth and commerce was sensible and uniform." From this period the city gradually declined, and so great was the distress in the reign of Henry VI. that the mayor and magistrates memorialized

the crown, stating that there were at that time not less than *eight hundred and eighty seven houses without inhabitants*, and *seventeen churches shut up*.

In the year 1392 a Parliament was held at Winchester, which granted to Richard II. a subsidy of the tenth of all ecclesiastical properties and a fifteenth on all lay property, towards the charges of the war in Ireland. Henry VI. selected the cathedral of Winchester as the place in which should be solemnized his marriage with the dowager Duchess of Brittany, in 1402, in compliment to its illustrious prelate, William of Wykeham. In the castle Henry V. gave audience to the French ambassadors in 1515, previous to his invasion of that country.

The victory of Bosworth transferred the crown from the line of Plantagenet to that of Tudor, and Henry VII, aware of the weakness of his hereditary right, sought by divers schemes to give a colour to it. First, he married Elizabeth of York, the rightful heiress to the throne; next he obtained an Act of Parliament, then a Papal Bull, recognizing his title; and lastly, claimed it as the descendant of Cadwallader, the last king of the Britons, who died in the seventh century; and because the castle of Winchester was said to have been the seat of the renowned King Arthur, another of his alleged progenitors, whose posterity, according to a pretended prophecy, were to regain the sovereignty of Britain, he brought his queen, then in an advanced state of pregnancy, to the castle, where she was delivered of a son, who was baptised in the cathedral by the honoured name of Arthur.

The suppression of Monasteries by Henry VIII was a fatal stroke to the prosperity of Winchester, as it had for several centuries, almost entirely depended on the number and wealth of its Religious Establishments, of which, two abbeys, four friaries, one hospital, three collegiate churches, besides chantries and similar foundations, with revenues, which at the present time would probably amount to £25,000 were swept away. In the year 1554, the marriage of Queen Mary with Philip II, of Spain was solemnized in the cathedral, and in 1587, the

charter was granted under which the city was governed till the passing of the Municipal Act. The preamble states that the charter was granted "in consideration of the city of Winchester having been famous for the celebration of the nativities, coronations, sepulchres, and for the preservation of other famous monuments of the Queen's progenitors" and as having "*fallen into great ruin, decay, and poverty.*"

At the commencement of the reign of James I. Winchester was again for a short time the seat of royalty. The plague at that time, 1603, was making fearful ravages in London, and the timid monarch was induced to remove his court to Winchester, where the judges held their Michaelmas Term. During this sojournment, the celebrated trials of Sir Walter Raleigh, Lords Cobham, Wilton, with others, on a charge of treason, took place at the County Hall, when Raleigh and his associates were declared guilty.

Upon the breaking out of the Civil War between Charles I. and his Parliament, the citizens declared in favour of the former, and secured the castle, which had been converted into a private residence, but before it was sufficiently fortified, it was seized by Sir William Waller for the Parliament. In the following year 1643, it was regained by the royalists, under the command of Lord Ogle, who retained possession of it till after the fatal battle of Naseby, when Cromwell who had reduced all the king's strongholds in the west, required Lord Ogle to surrender it. This was refused and a bombardment was commenced by Cromwell, principally directed against the castle, but occasionally against the city. At the end of eight days, Lord Ogle capitulated on very favourable terms, and Cromwell having obtained possession of the castle, immediately reduced it to a heap of ruins, by blowing it up with gunpowder. The bishop's palace, at Wolvesey, and the city walls, were likewise destroyed, a fate which is said to have been extended to several churches, all traces of which are lost about this time.

In 1666 the plague, which in the preceding year had

greatly depopulated London, made its appearance in Winchester, and raged with unremitting fatality for the space of nearly twelve months. All manner of trade and communication with other parts of the kingdom was entirely prohibited, and the distressed inhabitants confined within the narrow limits of the city on pain of death. Cart loads of dead bodies were daily carried out and deposited in large pits, dug for the purpose on the downs. The markets were removed to a convenient place without West-gate, where they were held once a week, and regulated by every prudent means, to prevent the progress of contagion. The method of making exchanges was this ;—the articles wanted to purchase, were laid on a large stone by the owner, and when he had retreated a few paces, the purchaser then approached the commodity, which if he agreed for, he carried with him, dropping his money into a cistern of water, set on a large stone, in the centre of the market, for that purpose ; from whence it was on his departure, taken by the proprietor of the goods. Winchester perhaps never exhibited so miserable a condition as it did on the abatement of the plague : its population was reduced to less than half of what it was a year previous, whilst the public streets were overgrown with grass, and the whole city presented the appearance of a deserted place.

A few years afterwards Charles II. was so pleased with the situation of Winchester, that he resolved to erect a magnificent palace, as his summer residence, on the site of the ancient castle. Sir Christopher Wren was appointed architect, and drew a plan and elevation of the whole building, partly on the model of Versailles, of which the first stone was laid at the commencement of 1683. His Majesty, in order to expedite the work, took up his residence at the Deanery, whilst this courtiers and mistresses had houses erected for them in various parts of the city. The residence of the Duchess of Portsmouth was in St. Peter street, and that of the celebrated Nell Gwyn in Colebrook street. For the

latter the King applied for the prebendal house of Dr. Kenn, the author of the well known *Evening Hymn*, afterwards Bishop of Bath and Wells, but was manfully refused by the reverend occupant. For two years the work was carried on with great spirit, but the untimely death of the King put an entire stop to it, and the unfinished building after being several times used as a prison of war, was in the year 1810, converted into a permanent barracks ; and Winchester instead of regaining its long lost honors, remained in obscurity, unnoticed by all the Sovereigns who have filled the British throne from that time to this.

SKETCH III.

WINCHESTER. THE CATHEDRAL.

"Ye fretted pinnacles, ye fanes sublime,
Ye towers that wear the mossy vest of time ;
Ye massive piles of old munificence,
At once the pride of learning and defence ;
Ye cloisters pale, which lengthening to the sight,
To contemplation, step by step invite ;
Ye temples dim, where pious duty pays—
Here holy hymns in ever echoing praise." T. WARTON.

Among the subjects worthy of our study and investigation may be included the history of those remarkable and beautiful edifices, which for ages have adorned the cities of England, and have descended to our time, not merely as temples dedicated to the service of the Most High, but as monuments illustrative of the genius, taste and piety of our ancestors. The citizens of Winchester can boast of one of them, which in respect to extent and grandeur, has but few superiors in the whole world. Every day it is present to their eyes, and every day invites them to enter its sacred portals, there to adore that God, who among his many mercies, has vouchsafed to man the faculties of designing and erecting such a majestic, noble, and beautiful structure.

I stated in my preceding sketch, that ancient writers inform us that during the Roman supremacy in Britain, the site of the present church was occupied by a splendid temple dedicated to Apollo, converted into a Christian church by King Lucius, A.D. 178 ; but which, in rather more than a century afterwards, was levelled with the ground, in obedience to the edict of the Roman emperor Dioclesian, to the effect that all places of Christian worship should be destroyed. Within ten years from this period the persecution of the Christians was stayed,

and a new church or cathedral was erected on the same spot that had been occupied by the former one. When Winchester fell into the hands of the Pagan Saxons the church was perverted into a heathen temple, and upon the conversion of King Kinegils to Christianity, it experienced the fate of its predecessor in being levelled with the ground. Kinegils, with the zeal of a new convert, rebuilt the church, which from that time to this has been appropriated to Christian worship, and, connected with which, there has been an uninterrupted succession of bishops.

At the latter end of the tenth century, the cathedral was rebuilt from its foundations, and it is a question in dispute between architects whether the present crypt and the original portions of the transepts and nave be not his workmanship, or whether they are not to be attributed to Walkelyn, who filled the see immediately after the Norman Conquest. Amongst others who maintain that the crypt, transepts and nave are of the earlier period, is E. Cressy, esq. of South Darenth, Kent, who delivered a very interesting Essay at the meeting of the Archæological Association, at Winchester, on the architecture of the cathedral, which he appears to have closely studied and compared it with that in all the cathedrals of England and many others in Italy, France and Germany. Mr. Cressy commences by saying: "The many cathedrals and churches built of stone throughout England, from the period of St. Augustine to the Norman Conquest, is so well attested that it cannot be believed that the whole of them were swept away before the 11th century, and that we have not a vestige remaining. That style which had for its peculiar character simplicity, and the Roman construction for its model, cannot wholly have disappeared while so many buildings which served the Saxons for imitation remain scattered over the greater part of Europe. The fantastic character found in the sculpture, and sparingly introduced in the capitals, and over the entrances of their buildings, and which materially differs

from the Norman, agrees precisely with the embellishments met with in the Saxon manuscripts which have come down to us. An eastern or Byzantine invention pervades the design, as well as the execution of the works of art at this period. There is not good ground for supposing they did not accompany St. Augustine. It has become a very general opinion that we can show no remains of Saxon architecture, and that the sumptuous churches and cathedrals erected by the Saxons, in the most solid and perfect manner, only a century before the Conquest, were destroyed by the Normans, that others, on a grander scale, might be constructed on their sites by that enterprising people. The manner of building introduced by the Romans, the cutting and hatching of stone, the forming of mortar, and more particularly a concrete with or out of flint, gravel, and chalk, was not only adapted by the Saxons, but continued in use for many centuries after they were subdued by the Normans. Both churches and castles have been found with their walls formed of these materials. The cathedral of Winchester exhibits much of this construction, the oldest part of which may be attributed to the time of St. Ethelwold, who flourished about the year 980."

On the other hand Professor Willis in his essay delivered at the meeting of the Archæological Institute, repudiates the idea that any portion of the Saxon church of St. Ethelwold remains, and maintains that the church was entirely pulled down and rebuilt by Walkelyn; and to account for the superior masonry of the tower and the portions of the transepts adjoining it, over the very rough masonry of the northern and southern extremities of the transepts, states that the tower, erected during the episcopacy of Walkelyn, was the same which an ancient legend asserts fell on the tomb of William Rufus; and that the tower was rebuilt after his death, with superior workmanship, and also with greater support than it actually required. On this point the Reverend Professor is at variance with Dr.

Milner, who supposes that the tower which fell on the tomb of Rufus was a Saxon one, which Walkelyn left standing to the eastward of the present tower. Professor Willis also brings, in support of his argument, a quotation from an ancient chronicle, entitled the *Annals of Winchester*, to the effect that Walkelyn destroyed the whole of the church in a year, with the exception of the apse and the high altar. But even on this point there are conflicting statements made by our ancient writers, which the historian of Winchester, with all his skill in monkish lore, and desire to uphold and reconcile the statements made by the members of his own church admits to be irreconcilable.

In the reign of King John, Bishop de Lucy rebuilt the whole of the east-end, with the exception of the present Lady Chapel, which is the work of Prior Silvestede in the reign of Henry VII. During the fourteenth century Bishops Edyington and Wykeham completely remodelled the nave and side aisles, and erected the west front. The finishing stroke, that is the last improvement of any magnitude, was effected by Bishop Fox, in the earlier part of the reign of Henry VIII. He rebuilt the portion of the church enclosing the choir, exhibiting the most beautiful and highly finished workmanship in the whole building, and which in the estimation of Dr. Milner, is not equalled by any other cathedral in the kingdom, and perhaps in the world.

From the period of the Reformation, nothing can be said of extensive alterations and improvements; on the contrary we find that in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the beautiful cloisters, and the elegant chapter house were destroyed; and during the war between Charles I. and his Parliament, the ancient stained windows were demolished and every kind of wanton injury inflicted in different portions of the church by the Parliamentary soldiers. Yet in spite of the injuries which it has received from the tooth of time and the hand of man, Winchester Cathedral has but few superiors, and, to use the words of its historian, "it is perhaps the most

venerable and interesting monument within the compass of the island, whether we consider the antiquity of its foundation, the importance of the scenes which have been transacted in it, the varied styles of architecture which it exhibits, or the characters of the personages with whose mortal remains it is enriched and hallowed."

The ground plan of the church is cruciform, and approaches nearer to the shape of a Latin cross than any other of our English Cathedrals. It is still the longest of them, and five centuries ago it extended fifty feet further to the west, the principal entrance being then flanked with large square towers, as are the cathedrals of York, Lincoln, Canterbury, Ripon, and Litchfield by two elegant spires.

The exterior of the cathedral is remarkable for the plainness of its masonry, the length of its nave, and the solidity of its tower, which rises only about twenty feet above the roof. In these respects it is so essentially different from the neighbouring cathedral of Salisbury, that I am induced to enter into a comparison of the respective beauties and peculiarities of them. At the first glance at the exterior of the Cathedral of Salisbury we are delighted with its elegant lightness, the appropriateness of its ornaments, and its perfect uniformity of design, whilst we gaze with mixed feelings of awe and admiration on its "heaven directed spire;" but when we view—steadily view—the exterior of that of Winchester, though it command not all those pleasurable emotions, we are struck by its solemn grandeur, its vastness of extent, and its immovable solidity. When we enter the nave of the former, we are still pleased with its elegant grace, and wonder how the slender shafts of its columns uphold its massive roof; but the flood of light poured in destroys those sensations of sublimity which the darker nave of the latter, with its ponderous pillars, admirably sustain. Salisbury Cathedral must be taken as a whole; Winchester Cathedral must be examined in its several parts. If the exterior of the one delights and charms us, the interior of the

other commands our admiration and reverence. Salisbury appears as if it had sprung into existence at the touch of the wand of some mighty magician, as perfect and as beautiful as it now appears to an enraptured eye; Winchester on the contrary, bears on its brow the marks of ages, and presents to the antiquarian the most perfect specimens of the growth of the pointed style, from the period of unadorned simplicity, till at last it became encumbered, nay buried, beneath heaps of ornament.

The west front was erected, about the year 1350, by Bishop Edyngton, who had undertaken to rebuild the whole of the nave, though he lived to execute only a small part of it. The greater portion of the facade is occupied by a large window, extending from a gallery over the central door way to the vaulting of the roof, and is of equal breadth with the nave. The wall of the high pitched gable is panelled in numerous compartments, and is surmounted by an enriched tabernacled niche, containing a perfect statue of William of Wykeham, who is supposed to have completed the work. On each side of the central porch there is a smaller one opening into the aisle, and which is also surmounted by a gallery and a window of the same character, but of smaller proportions. Between the three porches there are two vacant niches, which is supposed by Dr. Milner to have contained previous to the Reformation, statues of St. Peter and St. Paul.

The nave is allowed by competent judges to be equal to that of any other cathedral in beauty, and to surpass them all in effect. It is of the same length as that of York, namely 250 feet; whilst the eye can range along its richly embossed roof to the eastern extremity of the choir, a distance of nearly 400 feet. The original workmanship is of Saxon or Norman construction as may be seen by a small portion that remains unaltered near the entrance of the choir, but was greatly improved by Wykeham, who gave to this part of the church its present appearance. The windows which are of the early per-

pendicular character, have a peculiar form given to their heads, as that prelate was desirous of not weakening the stability of the structure by removing the arches of the former windows which he allowed to remain. The nave is separated from the aisles by ten massive columns, encased by Wykeham, and who also cut away their under arch, and converted the original semi-circular one above into a pointed arch. The groining of the nave and aisles is the work of Cardinal Beaufort who succeeded Wykeham as bishop of Winchester.

Between the fifth and sixth columns on the southern side of the nave, stands the elegant chantry of Wykeham erected by himself, and which contains his mortal remains. The design and execution of this chapel is accounted as one of the most perfect specimens of monumental architecture of the period of its erection. Within the chapel, the foundation of the altar and a great part of the credence table on the right hand of it, are still visible. In the centre there is a tomb bearing a full length effigy of the founder, in his episcopal costume. The head rests upon a pillow, supported by two angels, and at his feet are three monks, in the attitude of offering up prayers for the repose of his departed soul.

On the same side of the nave and at the foot of the steps leading to the choir, is the chantry of Bishop Edyngton, who died in 1366. This is far inferior in beauty and decoration to that last mentioned, and has not experienced that zealous care for its preservation, which has ever been shewn by the Wykehamist to their illustrious benefactor.

On the northern side of the nave, nearly opposite Wykeham's chantry, stands the ancient font, of *blue lais stone*, better known as *black marble*. The age of the font is supposed to be that of Bishop Walkelyn the founder of the church of *East Meon*, which has a font of the same character and material. The four sides are sculptured, those on the north and east symbolical of the sacrament of Baptism, surmounted with the well

known Norman zig-zag ornament, and those on the south and west representing some events in the life of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, who flourished in the fourth century, and was celebrated as the patron saint of children.

The *Transcepts* retain in a great measure their ancient architecture, and till within thirty years, were open to the roof; when they were covered with a flat wooden ceiling, painted in quartrefoil compartments in the early Tudor style. The windows are of much later date than the erection of the transepts, and several of them are curious specimens of the decorated style. The west aisle of the south transept, is now the Chapter Room, and the east aisle is separated into chapels. The north transept is open, but at one period also contained several chapels. Adjoining this transept and under the organ loft, is the ancient chapel of the Holy Sepulchre, the walls of which are covered with rough fresco paintings of the twelfth century, relating to the passion of Christ.

The *Choir* not only extends beyond the intersection of the cross, but a considerable distance into the nave, which is not the case in any other cathedral, save Gloucester and Chichester. It is separated from the nave by a stone screen of recent erection, and which supplies the place of one erected by the celebrated Inigo Jones, in the composite order, which though beautiful in itself was sadly out of place in a Gothic church. On the right hand side is a bronze statue of Charles I. and on the left hand, of James I. The tower was intended originally to serve as a lantern to the choir, and was at least partially open, till the reign of Charles, when the present roof under it was constructed. In the centre of it there is an emblem of the Trinity, and the corbels from whence the ribs of the vaulting spring are formed by four busts, representing James and Charles I. in alternate succession. Among other ornaments are the arms, initials, and devices of Charles I. and his Queen Henrietta Maria, the Prince of Wales, Archbishop Laud, and Curle, and Young the then

Bishop and Dean. The stalls which range on both sides of the western end of the choir, with their miseraries, canopies, pinnacles, and other ornaments are very ancient and present a profusion of foliage, crochets, busts, human and animal figures, boldly designed, and as well executed.

At the extremity of the stalls, on the northern side, is the pulpit, given by Prior Silkstede, who governed the monastery attached to the cathedral, in the reign of Henry VII : and opposite to it is the episcopal throne, an elegant composition, and though of very modern erection, perfectly harmonizes with the ancient stalls and pulpit.

A plain tomb of grey marble, in the centre of the choir, marks the place of interment of William Rufus, whose remains were afterwards transferred to one of the Mortuary chests, which range on each side of the upper part of the choir, and which contains a number of bones, said to belong to some of our Saxon monarchs, who were interred in Winchester, as well as those of some of the ancient bishops of this see.

The portion of the church, extending from the tower on the west to the low building of de Lucy on the east was rebuilt at the commencement of the sixteenth century by Bishop Fox, the character of whose work is beauty and magnificence in the highest degree, with a richness of detail no where else to be found. The vaulting contains on the tracery, a profusion of arms and other ornaments curiously carved and richly painted and gilt. The portion from the altar to the east window exhibits the several implements of our Saviour's Passion.

The gem of Winchester cathedral is its *Altar Screen* in stone work, supposed to be the richest and most exquisite specimen of the pointed style in England. It contains a variety of niches, with richly ornamented canopies, in each of which previous to the Reformation, was a statue of some saint. The communion table and rails are of the reign of Charles I. and above

the latter is the master piece of West, representing *our Saviour raising Lazarus from the dead*.

In the south aisle of the choir, and adjoining the Screen is the chantry of Bishop Fox, the founder of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, as well as the benefactor of his own cathedral, who died in 1528. In this magnificent sepulchral chapel, observes a recent writer, every effort of ingenuity and skilful workmanship have been exerted to their utmost, and it unquestionably affords one of the extraordinary examples of design and sculpture in existence. To the north of it and immediately behind the altar, is another chapel, in which in Catholic times, mass was said every morning, immediately after the holding of the chapter. Adjoining and also fronting the north aisle of the choir, we have Bishop Gardiner's chantry, corresponding in size and situation to that of bishop Fox, an absurd intermixture of the Pointed and Ionic styles, and is a proof how rapidly the science of architecture declined after the Reformation. Gardiner died in 1555, only twenty eight years after Fox, yet is his chantry as devoid of beauty, proportion and ornament and as much below mediocrity as the other surpasses it.

The *presbytery* or that portion of the church extending from the choir to the Lady Chapel, is of the early English style, and was erected by Bishop de Lucy, about the year 1202, and contains the chantries of Cardinal Beaufort and Bishop Waynfleet, the founder of Magdalene College, Oxford. The former died in 1447, and the latter his successor, in 1486. These chantries fill the middle aisles of the presbytery, and although their workmanship is less elaborate, and ornament used more sparingly in them, they are scarcely less beautiful than that of Fox.

The eastern extremity of the cathedral, is terminated by the Lady Chapel, extended to its present size about three hundred and fifty years ago, by Prior Silkstede. The walls are covered by the mutilated remains of some ancient fresco paintings, illustrative of legendary tales, relating to miracles of the Virgin ; one only, the annun-

ciation, is from Scripture. They are twenty-four in number, and are arranged as architectural compartments. Among the most striking is that of St. Gregory's procession during the plague at Rome in his pontificate, in which he bore a picture of the Virgin, painted by St. Luke; that of the drowning monk saved by the Virgin; and of the woman who died without confession, and by the intercession of the Virgin was restored to life, till she had confessed her sins. Of the tales the most curious are, those of the thief, who prayed to the Virgin even in the commission of theft, and who in consequence, was saved from hanging; and of the painter, who, for depicting the devil in his proper ugliness, had his scaffold overturned while painting the figure of the Virgin, and was saved by an arm from the picture sustaining him until assistance arrived. Originally all the subjects had an inscription beneath, describing them at full. Many of them still remain, with references to a collection of legends, giving chapter, book, and page.

On each side of the Lady Chapel, there is a smaller one, that on the south side being known as Bishop Langton's from that prelate being here interred and as containing an altar tomb, erected over his remains. And that on the north, is dedicated to the Guardian Angels, and has the whole of its vaulting covered with representations of them in fresco paintings, as early as the twelfth century.

In addition to the chantries already mentioned, the cathedral contains a great number of handsome and interesting monuments, amongst which I shall mention the most remarkable. In the nave, let into the column nearest to the choir door, on the north, is that of Bishop Hoadley, who died in 1761. It consists of a fine medallion of the bishop, blended with singular emblems, as the cap of liberty, the pastoral staff, Magna Charta and the Holy Scriptures. In the south aisle, are the monuments of Bishop Willis, Dean Cheyney, Dr. Warton, head master of Winchester College, and the late

Sir John Provost ; the first of which is considered a finished specimen of the composite order. In the south transept, under the choir gallery, is that of Admiral Sir Isaac Townsend, of white marble, enriched with military and naval trophies, and in the chapel known as Eyres chapel, there are several elegant monuments of that family : whilst in the adjoining one, under a plain black marble slab, rest the ashes of the " prince of fishermen," Isaac Walton.

In the south aisle of the choir, inserted in the partition, is a marble coffin staing to contain the body of Richard, the second son of William the Conqueror ; also an inscription informing the reader, that " within this wall is the heart of Nicholas [de Ely,] Bishop of Winchester, whose body lies at Waverley," of which he was the founder.

In the Presbytery, there is a fantastic monument and statue to Sir John Clobery, one of Monk's agents in effecting the Restoration of Charles II : and in front of the entrance to the Lady Chapel, is a plain grey marble tomb, erected by Bishop de Lucy, in the centre of his work as his burial place, who was here interred 1204. Between the chantries of Beaufort and Waynfleet, there is a tomb bearing the effigy of a crusader, of the princely family of de Foix.

In the Lady Chapel, there is a monument by Chantry, to Bishop North, who died in 1320, and in that of Guardian Angels, there is a recumbent statue in bronze of Weston, Duke of Portland, Lord High Treasurer under Charles I., with marble busts of three of his family.

The north transept contains an altar tomb, to the memory of the Rev. F. Iremonger, (one of the prebendaries of this cathedral, who died in 1320,) along which his effigy extends, dressed in canonicals. Here are also the elegant monuments of the late Dr. Nott, and S. Wall, esq. of Worthy Park ; and slabs set against the wall to the memory of the late Dean, Dr. Rennell, and other departed members of the church ;

and also the late W. Garbett, esq. the Architect, under whose direction, the extensive alterations and improvements were made in the church about thirty years ago, when above £40,000 was expended.

The monuments in the north aisle are inferior in beauty to those in the south aisle, the most remarkable is that to the Clerk family, bearing a very curious epithet, abounding with those quaint conceits, so popular in the seventeenth century, but which in the present day, are regarded in no other light than to amuse children. Near the west door, there is an elegant monument, representing the Good Samaritan, raised to the memory of Dr. Littlehales, of this city, who died in 1810.

The crypts which are entered by steps descending from the north transept, extend the whole width of the church from the intersection of the cross to the eastern extremity of the Lady chapel. They have long been considered the work of St. Ethelwold, with the exception of their eastern termination which is of the period of the fifteenth century. The masonry is substantial but roughly executed, and the ground has accumulated almost to the level of the capitals of the columns, from which spring semicircular arches.

The following are the dimensions of the church :—

	feet.
Extreme length from East to West . . .	560
Extreme breadth at the Transepts . . .	208
Length of the Nave	250
Breadth of the Nave and Aisles	86
Height of the Nave	78
Length of the Choir	138
Height of the Tower	135

The cloisters which were destroyed by bishop Horne in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, were situated to the south of the nave, and extended 180 feet from east to west, and 174 from north to south; and to the east of these was the ancient chapter house, the scene of several historical events. The conventual offices of the

Priory of St. Swithin, by whom the cathedral was served previous to the Reformation, was to the south of the cloisters, the dean's house occupying the site of the prior's apartments.

The priory consisted of a prior and forty monks, possessing an annual revenue, amounting according to Dugdale, to £1,507 17s. 2d. upon its suppression by Henry VIII. the greater portion of its revenues were settled on a new establishment, to consist of a dean, twelve prebendaries, six minor canons, and other members; and William Kingsmill who had proved himself sufficiently subservient to the King was appointed the first dean. The corporation consists of a dean and canons lately known as prebendaries, whose number will hereafter be reduced from twelve to five.

According to the late Parliamentary Return the net annual income amounted to £12,783 divided into fourteen shares, of which the dean has two and the canons one each. By powers given to the dean and canons, by the Ecclesiastical Act the number of minor canons will be reduced to five, each having a stipend of £150. The other members of the church are an organist, deputy organist, steward, eight singing men, ten choristers, two vergers, and three clerks.

SKETCH IV.

WINCHESTER. THE COLLEGE.

" Old Winchester, the auncient seate of kings ;
For virtue and for valour much renown'd,
So subject unto change are earthly things,
Instead of diadem with bayes is crown'd.
Where worthy Wiccam's children now mainetaine
The fame once known by great King Arthur's traine."
RICHARD ZOUCHE, 1613.

WINCHESTER COLLEGE is said to have existed in some form and under some name for the greater portion of two thousand years. According to ancient chronicles, its site was occupied, at the time when Britain formed a portion of the Roman empire, by a Pagan temple, dedicated to Concord, to which was attached a school of the Flamines, or Pagan Priests, but which was subsequently applied to Christian purposes. Upon the conversion of the West Saxons, and the establishment of a monastic institution in the cathedral of this city, a school, a necessary appendage to such an institution, was formed, and was afterwards known as the Great Grammar School. It was in high repute under the direction and controul of the prior and monks of the cathedral, in whose patronage it remained for several centuries, and is supposed likewise to have stood on some part of the college grounds. At this school, King Ethelwolf and his son Alfred the Great were educated, as well as many others of the royal family of the Anglo Saxon dynasty.

Bishop de Blois, in the statutes of foundation of his Hospital of St. Cross, near Winchester, 1136, directs that of the hundred poor men who were to be furnished with dinner every day at the hospital, thirteen should

be of the poorer scholars of the great grammar school of Winchester. The school continued to exist till the time of William of Wykeham who received his education therein, but it does not appear that it possessed any endowment, or that the scholars received anything farther than instruction.

The present establishment was founded by the above mentioned William of Wykeham, who filled the see of Winchester thirty-eight years, namely from 1366 to 1404. Wykeham was the son of a peasant of or near Wickham in this county, and was by the favor of Nicholas Uvedale, lord of the manor of Waltham and constable of Winchester castle, placed in the cathedral school, and afterwards he was removed to Oxford, where he remained eight years; afterwards he became secretary to Uvedale, and was by him employed in repairing and altering the castle of Winchester. Wykeham's knowledge of architecture (the favorite study of the age) recommended him successively to the notice of Edyngton, Bishop of Winchester, and King Edward III. by whom he was appointed surveyor of the royal castles, and in that capacity superintended the alterations and improvements of those of Windsor, Dover and Queenborough, and the King finding that he possessed the necessary knowledge and ability, employed him in offices of the state, and he became successively secretary of state, keeper of the privy seal and chancellor.

Upon the death of Edyngton, upon the powerful recommendation of the prior and monks of the cathedral, Wykeham succeeded to the high and important station of Bishop of Winchester, 1366. After effecting the reformation of many flagrant abuses, he directed his mind to the supply of a well instructed priesthood for his diocese, and to that end he subsequently founded and endowed St. Mary's (or New) College, Oxford, and St. Mary's College, Winchester, intending the latter to be a nursery to the former. For this purpose, he first took the cathedral grammar school into his own

hands and appointed a master to manage it, and scholars, who were lodged and boarded at his own expence; and in 1387, having completed his college at Oxford, he commenced that of Winchester.

The whole Society, according to the statutes of foundation, was to consist of a warden, seventy poor scholars, to be instructed in grammatical learning; ten secular priests, perpetual fellows; three priests, chaplains; three clerks, and sixteen choristers; and for the instruction of the scholars, a school-master and under-master. Of the scholars it was required that they should be *poor and indigent*, and that if any one of them (except the founder's kin) should come into spiritual or temporal possessions of the value of one hundred shillings, he should be expelled.

No information has yet been given us by what means Wykeham was enabled to found and endow this college, his college at Oxford, and to execute the other great works which distinguish his episcopacy. It is too much to suppose that he accomplished these things by his personal means, or from his economy in the management of the revenues of his see, or of his offices as a minister of state; and the probability is that the greater portion of the endowments of both colleges were taken from other religious establishments. From the death of Wykeham, 1404, till the time of Henry VIII. the warden, fellows and scholars were allowed to pursue the even tenor of their way unmolested or disquieted by the state. During that period they received charters from different kings for the security and aggrandisement of the establishment, and also bulls from the reigning popes, exempting them from the usual restrictions of the canon law. In 1547, the dissolution of the college and the seizure of its property formed part of an Act of Parliament, which remained in force two years, although it was not carried into effect. The death of Henry VIII. in all probability saved the college from destruction, for when another Act was passed for dissolving religious establishments, Winchester College

was specially exempted with Eton and the two Universities. The college authorities were sufficiently accommodating in the religious changes which marked this period to have escaped all further notice, till the accession of Queen Elizabeth, when a few who were more stubborn than the rest were ejected. In the middle of the seventeenth century, the existence of the college was again in jeopardy, and it is supposed would have fallen but for the interference of those who had received their education within its walls. From that time to this, nothing has occurred worthy of notice, and the establishment remains nearly in the same state as left by the founder

The corporation consists of the warden and fellows, to whom the entire management is confided. The scholars are chosen at the annual election in July, when a certain number are elected to fill up the vacancies which may occur at New College. The scholars receive annually a black or college gown, in which they must always appear, and those who are what is called the founder's kin, that is can prove their descent from the immediate relations of Wykeham, receive also the sum of forty shillings, according to the directions of the statutes. Their fare is ample, a breakfast of bread and butter, a dinner at one o'clock of beef, cheese and bread, and at six, of mutton, cheese and bread, with beer at each meal. Till lately wooden trenchers were used, and no knives or forks found by the establishment, but during the present wardenship, several reforms have been made conducive to the comfort of the scholars. Their sleeping apartments consist of seven chambers, and each scholar has his separate bed and desk or scob for study. Previous to the summer vacation which commences at the conclusion of the election, the annual celebration of Domum, takes place which draws a large and fashionable assembly to the college. Of its reputed origin I shall have occasion to speak hereafter, and shall now content myself with inserting a translation of the justly famed Wykhamical song

Dulce Domum, the music of which is of the period of Charles II.

Sing a sweet melodious measure,
Waft enchanting lays around ;
Home ! a theme replete with pleasure !
Home ! a grateful theme, resound !

CHORUS.

Home ! sweet home ! an ample treasure !
Home ! with ev'ry blessing crown'd ;
Home ! perpetual source of pleasure !
Home ! a noble strain, resound !

Lo ! the joyful hour advances,
Happy season of delight !
Festal songs, and festal dances,
All our tedious toils requite.

Leave, my wearied muse, thy learning,
Leave thy task, so hard to bear ;
Leave thy labour, ease returning,
Leave this bosom, O ! my care.

See the year, the meadow smiling !
Let us then a smile display ;
Rural sports, our pain beguiling,
Rural pastimes call away.

Now the swallow seeks her dwelling,
And no longer loves to roam ;
Her example thus impelling,
Let us seek our native home.

Let our men and steeds assemble.
Panting for the wide champaign ;
Let the ground beneath us tremble,
While we scour along the plain.

Oh ! what raptures, oh ! what blisses,
When we gain the lovely gate ;
Mother's arms, and mother's kisses,
There our blest arrival wait.

Greet our household gods with singing ;
Lend, O Lucifer, thy ray ;
Why should light, so slowly springing,
All our promis'd joys delay.

In addition to the head and second masters provided by the statutes of Wykeham, there are now several tutors or sub-tutors, the necessity of which has arisen from the fact, that the simple requirements of the fourteenth century have been extended, and now embrace various departments of science. The head master is allowed to take gentlemen commoners, who are lodged and boarded in his house, but are educated in the college school.

The annual income of the college, including fines on renewals, reserved rents, &c. amount nearly to the average of £15,000, and the expenditure to nearly £11,000, leaving the remainder to be divided between the warden and fellows, the warden's share being double that of each of the fellows.

The buildings, which are spacious and convenient, are principally of the age of the founder. The front, in College street, extends about 250 feet, in the centre of which is a noble gateway, under a substantial tower, which on the north side has an ornamental niche, containing a statue of the Blessed Virgin, to whom the college is dedicated. Passing through this gateway, we find ourselves in the outer court, or quadrangle, which has on the east the warden's house, a modern erection; on the north, the brew-house of the college; on the west the warden's stables; and on the south the residence of the second master, and another gateway, under what is called middle tower, which communicates with the inner or principal quadrangle, ninety-six feet in breadth.

This tower is more richly ornamented than the former one, and has, on its north and south sides, three elegant niches, containing statues of the Blessed Virgin, the Angel Gabriel, and William of Wykeham. The north and east wings and a portion of the west wing of the quadrangle consists of the chambers of the scholars, seven in number. On the south, we have the magnificent chapel and hall, the former supported by bold and ornamental buttresses and enlightened by lofty and

richly mullioned windows. It is one hundred and two feet in length, and thirty three broad, and is considered to be the master-piece of its illustrious founder. Its superiority over almost every other college chapel in the kingdom is owing not merely to its fair proportions and beauty of architecture, but to

“its storied windows richly dight,
Casting a dim religious light.”

The great eastern window is illustrative of the genealogy of Christ, as springing from the root of Jesse, in the most lively colours, and forms the subject of a poem, written by Bishop Lowth, who was educated at this college. It also contains representations of the Apostles, Peter and the Crucifixion, in the centre and above it the Resurrection of our Lord. The other windows are filled by figures of saints, kings, bishops, and other illustrious characters, of which the former may be known by their respective emblems, as St. Lawrence with a gridiron, and St. Hubert with a hound. The altar piece is a representation of the salutation of the Virgin by the Angel Gabriel, ‘*Hail: full of Grace,*’ by Le Moine, and presented by Dr. Burton, a former head master of the college. The fittings of the chapel which is wainscotted, are of the Ionic order, the work of Dr. Nicholas, who in 1681, removed into the ante chapel, the ancient stalls with their canopies, and also many curious monumental brasses for the purpose of repaving it. The ceiling is of wood, in imitation of arch stone work, as is that of the choir of the cathedral.

In the ante-chapel through which we enter the chapel, there is a recess, formerly a small chapel, over which stands the tower, crowned with turrets and pinnacles at the four corners. Here we still have the ancient stalls and brasses before mentioned, among the latter, is one to the memory of John Morys, the first warden of the college, and another of Dr. John White, successively head master and warden of the college, and bishop of Winchester, with an inscription written by himself.

The cloisters which abut the chapel on the south are 132 feet square, and contain many ancient brasses, some with inscriptions only, and others representing priests in their sacerdotal habits. In the enclosed area, is the Library, erected in 1430, by John Fromond, (a liberal benefactor to both of Wykeham's colleges,) as a chantry chapel. The building is an elegant specimen of the architecture of the time at which it was erected, and was appropriated to its present purpose rather more than two centuries ago.

Returning to the quadrangle, we have near the entrance to the chapel, a flight of stone steps, which conducts us to the hall, which is sixty-three feet long, thirty-three broad, and proportionably lofty, the height not being reduced by vaulting. The timbers of the roof are curiously worked and arranged, and the corbels display large coloured busts of kings and bishops. Here the scholars take their meals, the prefects or seniors occupying the raised dais at the eastern end.

At the bottom of the stairs is the kitchen, in a small room adjoining which, is a singular painting, known as the *Trusty Servant*, which from the costume, appears to be of the time of Queen Anne. It represents an animal, compounded of a man, a hog, a deer, and an ass, under which, is the following inscription.

A trusty servant's portrait would you see,
This emblematic figure well survey.
The porker's snout not nice in diet shows;
The padlock shut, no secret he'll disclose;
Patient, the ass, his master's rage will bear;
Swiftness in errand, the stag's feet declare.
Loaden his left hand, apt to labour saith;
The vest his neatness, open hand his faith;
Girt with his sword, his shield upon his arm,
Himself and master he'll protect from harm.

Between the hall stairs and the entrance to the chapel there is a passage, which leads to the School-room and play ground. The former is a plain brick building, erected in the reign of Charles II. by the subscriptions

of those who had been here educated. Over the door is a bronze statue of Wykeham, cast under the direction, and presented by the father of Colley Cibber, the hero of the *Dunciad*, but which under the idea of being rendered more beautiful, has been defaced by being painted and gilt, and that without proper attention to costume. The school-room which is ninety feet long, and thirty-six wide, has on its southern wall inscriptions to the effect of 'either learn and depart hence, or remain and be chastised,' with the appropriate emblems of a mitre and crosier, the expected rewards of learning; an ink-horn to sign, and a sword to enforce, expulsion; and a scourge; and on the opposite wall are inscribed the rules for the conduct of the scholars.

To the south west of the play-ground stands the Infirmary, also erected in the reign of Charles II. This portion of the college formerly belonged to the collegiate church, or college of St. Elizabeth, which stood in an adjacent meadow to the east, which at its suppression in the reign of Henry VIII. was granted to Wriothesley Earl of Southampton, and by him sold to the warden and fellows, on condition that they should either convert it into a grammar school for twenty scholars, or pull it down before Whitsuntide, 1547, when the latter was preferred by them.

Adjoining the college on the west, is the residence of the head master, known as commoners. It has recently been rebuilt, principally by the subscriptions of gentlemen who enjoyed the advantages of a Wykehamical education. The front in college street, is a noble and imposing specimen of the Elizabethian style. The offices as well as the apartments of the gentlemen placed under the care of the head master, amounting to nearly two hundred, are behind, at a very short distance from the school-room and chapel.

Among the eminent men educated at this college, may be mentioned, Henry Chichley, Archbishop of Canterbury, and founder of All Souls College, Oxford, William of Waynfleet, Bishop of Winchester and

founder of Magdalene College, Oxford ; Thomas Kenn, Bishop of Bath and Wells ; Robert Lowth, Bishop of London ; Sir T. Brown, the Antiquarian ; Sir Henry Wotton ; the Poets Otway, Phillips, Young, Somerville, Pitt, Collins, and Warton ; the present Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop of Durham ; the present judges, Sir J. T. Coleridge, and Sir William Erle ; and the present Speaker of the House of Commons.

SKETCH V.

WINCHESTER. ANTIQUITIES IN GENERAL

“What’s to do?
Shall we go and see the reliques of this town?”
SHAKESPEARE.

ONE of the objects which first arrest the attention of visitors to Winchester is the stately pile, seated on an eminence, occupied and known as the Barracks. Without giving credence to the romantic tales about King Arthur and his Round Table, we may claim for the Castle, (which formerly occupied the site, and of which the County Hall formed part), an antiquity of nearly, perhaps more than, eight hundred years. Milner and others attribute the erection to William the Conqueror, but I think there are reasons which may induce us to give it an earlier date. Historians inform us that while the Conqueror was occupied in the erection or extension of the Tower of London, he committed to Fitz Osborne, the bravest and most favoured of his generals, the care of raising a similar structure at Winchester, which is said to have been completed in three months, and that in the depth of winter. It was not built on a natural detached rock, but on the declivity of a steep hill, separated by art from the rising ground on the west by a very wide fosse, and deep enough to be supplied with water from the river; and on the east by the removal of the ground it was rendered inaccessible from that quarter. This must have been the work not of months but of years; but yet we read that only three years after Fitz Osborne was deputed to erect it, that its dungeons were completed, and in one of them was placed Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury.

By a plan of it, drawn in 1630, it appears to have been a quadrangular structure, with towers at each angle; that the entrance was at the west, by a bridge over the fosse, leading to a gateway at the south-west angle of the building, and that it had outworks and towers to the south. Its area extended 850 feet from north to south, and 250 feet from east to west, and the keep, which was situated at its southern extremity, occupied a square of 100 feet.

After being the scene of several remarkable events, and the occasional residence of the Kings of England, for more than five centuries, the castle was granted in fee simple, to Sir Benjamin Tichbourne, by James I. as a reward, for his having, as Sheriff of Hampshire, caused him to be proclaimed king in his baliwick previous to any commands to that effect being issued by the Privy Council. In the year 1640, having been garrisoned for the King it was besieged and taken by Oliver Cromwell, who immediately dismantled and rendered it uninhabitable.

In a preceding sketch, I mentioned that Charles II. commenced the erection of a palace on the site, which was never completed; but was intended for the King's summer's residence, and to have been sufficient to entertain the whole court. The centre of the palace being exactly in a line with the western front of the cathedral, a street was to have been formed in that direction, two hundred feet broad, with houses on each side, for the nobility and persons of rank. The fosse, recently filled up, was to have been converted into a canal, and a park was to be laid out, ten miles in circumference. Upon the death of the King, 1685, a stop was put to the works, which were never resumed. The palace with a royal revenue, was in the reign of Queen Anne, settled on her husband, Prince George of Denmark, in case he outlived her majesty. In the year 1756, it was fitted up as a prison of war, as was also the case in 1776, and in 1792, it accommodated French emigrant priests, who fled in consequence of the Revolution and were here maintained, first by voluntary contributions,

and afterwards by the English Government. Here they remained till 1796, when the place which had hitherto been known as the King's House, was converted to its present purpose. In 1810, the interior was entirely reconstructed, and considerable alterations made to the exterior. It is now used as a place of relief for one battalion in turn of the Foot-guards, in addition to which it affords accommodation to one regiment of the line.

The County Hall had long been supposed to have been the chapel of the castle, but it was satisfactorily shown at the recent meeting of the Archæological Institute, at Winchester, that it was not erected for that purpose, but that it was intended as the hall, not only from the situation of the original doorways and the construction of the windows, which in the interior have seats formed in their sills, as was customary in the halls of the middle ages, and never in churches; but in the total absence of any remains which might show that it had ever been dedicated to sacred purposes. The building which is a hundred and ten feet long and forty-three broad, consists of a nave and aisles, and is an elegant specimen of the architecture of the thirteenth century. For several centuries it has been used as a court of Justice, and perchance its application to that purpose, was, the reason that it escaped destruction with the other portion of the castle by Cromwell. It is now divided into three apartments, the open hall, the Crown Court, and the Nisi Prius Court. In the latter, is suspended over the Judges seat, the reputed table of the renowned King Arthur, of whom so much has been said and written but nothing proved. The embellishments of the table, are of the age of Henry VII. and were probably executed at the birth of his eldest son, Arthur, who was born in the castle, 1586. The table consists of stout oaken planks, painted with the figure of King Arthur, and the names of his twenty-four paladins or knights, and in the centre is a rose. Its diameter is eighteen feet, and in several places has been perforated by bullets, supposed by Cromwell's soldiers.

The episcopal palace and remains of the ancient castle of *Wolvesey*, are situated at a short distance north-east of the college. It probably formed a portion of the precincts of the cathedral, and has belonged to the Bishops of Winchester from the period of the conversion of the West Saxons to Christianity. It is asserted by some ancient writers that *Wolvesey* derives its name from its having been the place where King Edgar required that the Welsh Princes should pay the tribute of wolves' heads, which history says he imposed upon them. In the reign of Henry I. Bishop de Blois erected, after the fashion of the times, a stately castle, which in the succeeding reign endured a severe siege. After the surrender of Winchester to Oliver Cromwell, 1645, the castle, as has been already mentioned, was utterly demolished, with the exception of the chapel, which is still standing. Within twenty years afterwards, Bishop Morley, the founder of the Matrons' College, in the Cathedral Yard, erected a spacious and noble house on the site, which was known as the Bishop's Palace; this was pulled down, with the exception of one of the wings of the house, by Bishop North, about fifty years since, and the materials sold to a builder of the city. Considerable remains of the ancient castle are yet standing, as well as the chapel erected by Bishop Langton, at the close of the fifteenth century; the former is in a very ruinous state, and the latter a sorry specimen of the architecture of its age.

Winchester once could boast of

“ High raised battlements and labour'd mounds,
Thick walls and moated gates ; ”

these and the necessity for them no longer exist.— Of its walls small portions of them are here and there to be seen, and are in many instances the foundations of masonry of a later date. Of its six gates two only remain. Westgate a valuable specimen of the military architecture of the time of Henry III, over which is the Muniment Room of the Corporation; and Kingsgate, of which little can be said, except recently a second foot-way has been opened, and the front renovated with

stucco, and coloured to imitate granite. Over it is the church of St. Swithin, which was intended originally for the use of the domestics of St. Swithin's Priory.

As Winchester belongs more to the past than the present, I shall proceed to notice the Monastic establishments, suppressed at the Reformation, previous to giving a description of the churches which exist at present. Antiquity and importance claim the first place for the famed *Abbey of Hyde*. Its original founder was Alfred the Great: its site was in the Cathedral Yard, immediately to the north of the Cathedral, and it was sometimes called the "New Minster," to distinguish it from the Cathedral, or "Old Minster," sometimes St. Grimbald's and sometimes St. Peter's abbey. In the reign of Henry I. the abbot and monks removed to Hyde, where the King had erected for them a stately building, occupying the whole of the land from the city walls to the present county bridewell.

The possessions of the abbey consisted of the parishes of King's Worthy, Mitcheldever, Stratton, Popham, Preston Candover, Abbotston, Northington, and North Stoneham, besides estates in others; and its wealth and importance was such as to obtain for its superior a seat in Parliament, with the other twenty-three mitred abbots who enjoyed that privilege. The principal historical event connected with it is that at the Norman Invasion, the abbot Alwyn, who was uncle to King Harold, with twelve of his monks, took up arms in defence of their sovereign, and were all slain at Hastings. William the Conqueror seized the abbey, which he held for two years, but ultimately restored it, retaining some of its best manors.

At the suppression of religious houses, in the reign of Henry VIII, the commissioners appointed to obtain their surrenders experienced no difficulties at Hyde, for the then abbot, John Salcot or Capon, who had been very instrumental in the matter of the King's divorce from Catherine of Arragon (and for his services had obtained the bishopric of Bangor, to be held in commendam with this abbey), induced his monks, twenty-one

in number, to sign the surrender, for which he was speedily rewarded, by being translated to the see of Salisbury. The annual income amounted according to Dugdale to £865 1s. 6d. exceeding that of the college by nearly one fourth. The site and manor was granted to Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, for some time Lord Chancellor, the most talented and boldest lay opponent of the "new learning," as the principles of the Reformation were called in the reigns of Henry VIII. and Edward VI. and the acknowledged head of the Catholic party. Religious scruples did not prevent him from accepting as a free gift, or purchasing at an easy rate, not only the vast possessions of Hyde abbey, but those of Beaulieu and Titchfield, and St. Elizabeth's college, in this city.

Of the buildings all that now remain are some portion of the walls, a gate-way, and a few small door-ways of the fifteenth century. The home farm of the abbey still retains the name of Abbot's Barton, and the delightful pathway leading from the abbey to their possessions at Worthy, is known as the "Monk's Walk." Where now stands the county bridewell, in the olden time stood the chapel of the abbey, and the resting place of England's wisest and best King—the immortal Alfred. The present Hyde Church, supposed to have been formerly merely a chapel for the use of the servants of the abbey, consists of a nave and chancel, the latter recently rebuilt. The nave has on the south side a fine Norman door; the windows are of different ages, but principally of an early English character, and the font is of the thirteenth century.

St. Mary's abbey, or the "Nun's Minster," occupied nearly the whole of the land now surrounded by the High and Colebrook streets, of which not a vestige remains, save that the site is still known by the name of the abbey. It was founded by the widow of Alfred the Great, who passed her widowhood within its walls, and in it resided the good Queen Molde or Matilda, prior to her marriage with Henry I. in 1100. By the Doomsday Book, it appears to have possessed lands at

Froyle, Leckford, Itchen Stoke, Timsbury and Avington in this county, besides possessions in Wiltshire and elsewhere; at its dissolution its revenues amounted to £179.

A *Carmelite Convent* occupied the site of the present College Infirmary, but Dugdale makes no mention of its revenues. Of the *Augustan, Dominican and Franciscan Friaries* which respectively occupied the sites of a house and grounds in Southgate street, still known as the Friary, Eastgate house and lands, and at the upper part of the Middlebrook street, the mere mention will suffice, as by their orders they were forbidden to possess lands, and subsisted by voluntary donations. In addition to these there were several collegiate establishments, suppressed by Henry VIII, such as *St. Elizabeth's College*, which stood in the warden's meadow, still known as St. Elizabeth's Meadow; the church of the Holy Trinity, which stood on the present cheese fair ground, and was afterwards occupied as the county bridewell; and the church of *St. Maurice* was perhaps a remnant of the New Minster, after the establishment removed to Hyde. In the present church of St. John there was also a chantry foundation, made by John Thomas, in the year 1527, who bequeathed certain properties in that parish, for the purpose of celebrating masses in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin in that church; which gift appears to have been overlooked by the commissioners appointed in the reign of Edward VI. At the present time the property consists of eighteen tenements besides other buildings, the receipts of which are expended in the relief of the poor. The present Catholic burial ground (St. James's) was also the site of a monastic establishment, but suppressed long prior to the Reformation.

Of the sixty or seventy churches and chapels, which once existed in Winchester, only nine remain, two of which, *St. Michael* and *St. Maurice*, were rebuilt but a few years since, and *St. Thomas* is being pulled down to be re-erected on a more convenient site.

The church of *St. John*, the most perfect and interesting of these remains of antiquity, is a spacious

structure, consisting of a nave and aisles, with a substantial tower at the west-end. The architecture is of several periods, the columns and arches being of the transition from the Norman to the early English style, whilst the windows are of a far later date. There is no chancel, but the eastern end of the nave and aisles are separated from the remainder of the church, by a screen of wood work, over which are the remains of the ancient rood loft. At the east-end of the north wall is a recess ornamented with the emblems of our Saviour's Passion and was probably used in the olden time as the Easter Sepulchre.

The church of *St. Peter Cheeseshill*, in Cheeseshill street, consists of a nave and south aisle separated from each other by circular columns. In the eastern end towards the street, are three pointed windows, the drip stones of which are supported by corbel heads, male and female, of good workmanship and in high preservation. The churches of *St. Swithin* and *St. Bartholomew Hyde* I have already noticed, that of *St. Martin* resembles more in the interior a barn than a place of divine worship; and that of *St. Lawrence* is surrounded and hidden by houses. It consists of a nave only, with a large and handsome window at the east-end. Being the mother church, the Bishops of Winchester previous to their installation, visit this church in procession and toll a bell. The church of *St. Thomas* formerly consisted of a nave and side aisles, but the northern one was taken down about the period of the Reformation. The architecture is of the transition from the Norman to the early English style. In addition to the above may be mentioned the chapel of *St. John Baptist* situate in the broad part of the High street, an early English erection having six single lancet windows to the north, and a tripartite lancet one at the east-end.

The Cross situated near the middle of the High street, was erected in the reign of Henry VI. and is an exquisite specimen of the architecture of that period. It consists of three stories, adorned with open arches, niches and pinnacles, and is surmounted by a small

cross, standing on an ornamented shaft. On the second story there is a statue supposed to be that of St. Lawrence, bearing a palm branch, the sure token of a martyr, to whom the neighbouring church is dedicated.

In the close, near its principal entrance, we have the *Cheyney Court*, belonging to the Bishop of Winchester, which has civil jurisdiction in all the parishes and manors which once belonged to the see. It is of very high antiquity, probably anterior to the conquest.

The Hospital of St. Cross which is situated about a mile south of the city, was founded by Henry de Blois, Bishop of Winchester, and brother to King Stephen, about the year 1132. In the language of the time, the founder declares it was instituted for "the health of his own soul and the souls of his predecessors, and of those of the Kings of England."

Of this establishment, it is observed by Dr. Milner, that "there is not in the island any remnant of ancient piety and charity of the same kind, which has so little changed in its institution as the hospital of St. Cross. The lofty tower, with the grated door and porter's lodge beneath it, the retired abulatory, the black flowing dress and silver cross worn by the members, the conventual appellation of brother, with which they salute each other; in short, the silence, the order and the neatness which here reign, serve to recall the idea of a monastery to those who have seen one, and will give no imperfect idea of such an establishment to those who have not had that advantage."

It is stated by Bishop Lowth in his life of William of Wykeham, though he does not give his authority, that the founder intended this institution for thirteen poor men, so decayed and past their strength, who without charitable assistance could not maintain themselves, to abide continually in the hospital, and be provided with proper clothing and beds, suitable to their infirmities; and have an allowance daily of good wheaten bread, and good beer—three messes each for dinner, and one for supper; and that if any one of these should recover his health and strength, he was to be discharged

and another admitted in his place. Besides a hundred other poor were to receive daily at dinner time, a loaf of coarser bread, one mess, and a proper allowance of beer, and that the residue of the revenues should be distributed to the poor in general.

The endowment consisted principally of the impropriation of the great tythes of rectories in the patronage of the Bishop, as at Twyford, Hurstbourn Priors, St. Mary Bourne and Fareham, which are still enjoyed by the hospital.

Richard de Toclyve the successor of de Blois, made an addition of another hundred poor, but this was of short continuance, and instead of the poor men an establishment of four priests, thirteen secular clerks, and seven choristers was introduced. During the fourteenth century the revenues of the hospital were greatly perverted and grossly squandered by several of its masters, so that it required all the vigour and perseverance of the celebrated William of Wykeham, to re-establish the charity on its primitive foundation. The masters' salary at that time amounted to about £8, and it was calculated that the diet of each member amounted to only three-pence daily, and that of each of the hundred men, to the same inconsiderable sum weekly.

Cardinal Beaufort, his successor as Bishop of Winchester, greatly increased the establishment, and conferred upon it the title of "*The Alms House of Noble Poverty*," endowing it with manors, purchased of the King, and with several impropriations of churches, for the support of two priests, thirty-five brethren, and three sisters or hospital nuns, for attendance on the sick, all residents of the hospital, in addition to the former members. Upon the accession of the House of York to the throne 1461, the hospital was despoiled of its new possessions, on the plea that Henry VI. had no right to alienate the revenues of the crown.

The hospital appears to have been no sufferer by the Reformation, so fatal to so many other episcopal foundations. It was in common with other religious foundations visited by a commissioner, appointed by Cromwell,

the King's Vicar General, by whom its annual revenues was returned at £84, and that the establishment consisted of a master, chaplain, and thirteen brethren, in addition to whom one hundred poor persons were fed daily.

During the sixteenth century it is said that the ancient charters and grants to the hospital were destroyed, with other papers, by the widow of a steward, in order to cover her husband's defalcations; and in the year 1696, in consequence of the continued disputes between the master and brethren and in the absence of all written statutes and directorial documents, *Customary* was drawn from the usages of many previous years, which were agreed to by the Master, brethren and officers, and ratified by Peter Mews, Bishop of Winchester, the visitor. In this instrument the hospital of St. Cross is stated to consist of thirteen brethren, one master, one steward and one chaplain, it recognizes the existence of the hundred men's hall, but the members reduced to twenty-eight poor men, twelve poor women and two reversioners to succeed to a vacancy. It directs that for the relief of casual applicants the porter shall receive daily a cast of bread and six quarts of beer, and that there be six doles in the year, on each of which occasion, eight bushels of wheat are to be distributed in small loaves to seven hundred poor applicants, and that if the number of applicants exceed the number of loaves prepared, they are to receive a half-penny each. The diet and pecuniary allowance of the brethren and the stipends to the chaplain and steward are regulated by this *Customary* by which the master is permitted to enjoy the whole of the revenues, after defraying the expences of the establishment and keeping the buildings in repair.

Since that time, nothing material has occurred, save that additions have been made to the stipends of the chaplain and steward and pecuniary allowances of the brethren. According to the return made by the Parliamentary Commissioners, the annual income of the hospital amounted to £1,088 2s. 9d. arising from the rents of twenty-four houses and cottages, and tythes,

and about 732 acres of land, in addition to which there are other tythes and lands let on lease of lives, with fines, which from 1807 to 1836, amounted to £17,906, in the distribution of which the master receives 16s. 10d. the brethren 2s. 2d. collectively and the chaplain and steward 6d. each.

Each of the brethren receives daily one pound of meat, three quarts of beer and five small loaves, with extra allowances on certain festivals, known as *gaudy days* and the sum of two shillings, increased from one shilling by the present master the Earl of Guilford. The poor of the hundred men's hall, which still continues at forty receive 6d. weekly.

The distribution of the doles takes place on the Feast of the Holy Cross, May 3; the obit of the founder, August 10; and the eves of Easter, Whitsuntide, Allhallows, and Christmas; in addition to which refreshment in the form of a horn of beer and slice of bread may at any time be demanded at the porter's lodge.

The principal entrance is by a plain gateway to the north, within which is a small court, having on the east the remains of the hundred men's hall, on the west the ancient offices of the hospital, which are now used as a stable, and to the south the refectory or hall, and a lofty and elegant tower, that was erected by Cardinal Beaufort, whose arms, cardinal's hat and other insignia appear in various parts of it. On the north there are three niches one of which is still tenanted by the kneeling figure of Beaufort, the centre one is supposed to have been occupied by a large cross the peculiar and appropriate one of the hospital, and the third niche by a statue of the founder Bishop de Blois. Passing this gateway, which has on the left the porter's lodge, where bread and beer may be obtained by the weary traveller, we find ourselves in what was formerly the principal quadrangle, but the houses on the south side, were pulled down at the close of the last century, by Dr. Lockman the then master. Immediately fronting the gateway, is the church of de Blois, denominated by

Dr. Milner, "a collection of architectural essays." It is built in the form of a cathedral except there are no aisles to the transept and no appearance of a Lady Chapel. It is 150 feet long, and 120 feet broad; and at the intersection rises a substantial tower, which serves as a lanthorn to the choir; the nave is separated from the aisles by round massive columns, from which spring obtusely pointed arches. The clerestory or upper story windows are of a decorated character, as is the west window, (the breadth of the nave), filled with stained glass, with appropriate figures and emblems, presented by Dr. Lockman.

The choir which extends beyond the intersection, is separated from the nave by a wooden screen, and encloses the north transept. The stalls are of the date of the reign of Henry III. but the fittings about the altar are modern and out of character. The arches of the windows, springing one within the other, are supposed by Dr. Milner to have been the origin of the pointed style, but the supposition is now regarded as visionary, still they are curious and well deserving the attention of visitors. On the floor there is an elegant brass plate in perfect preservation, bearing a full length effigy of John de Campden, who was master in the time of William of Wykeham, which is surrounded by an inscription. The only other monument in the church deserving of notice, is that to Wolfran Cornwall, esq. Speaker of the House of Commons. The font is ancient, probably belonged to the neighbouring church of St. Faith. On the walls of the aisles of the choir, are some curious paintings in fresco, now completely obliterated by white wash.

The west side of the court is occupied by the houses of the brethren, in front of which are small patches of garden ground, replete with Flora's choicest gifts. To the south we have the master's house, now occupied by the chaplain, having a modern exterior; and adjoining it is the hall, approached by a flight of steps, and containing a very ancient movable altar piece,

the subject of which is the visit of the Magi, or Wise Men of the east to the infant Jesus. The windows are of the period of Cardinal Beaufort, by whom this portion was rebuilt towards the middle of the fifteenth century. On the east side of the court, there is an ambulatory or one winged cloister, conducting from the porter's lodge to the church.

The hospital of St. Cross, with its surrounding land, is extra parochial; but the church is used by the inhabitants of the adjoining parish of St. Faith, the rectory of which is attached to the mastership of the hospital. This church, which has not been in existence these four centuries, stood in the ground used as a cemetery, on the east side of the road leading from the village to Winchester. The appropriation of the tythes formerly belonged to Wykeham's College, but was exchanged for those of Downton, near Salisbury, then belonging to the hospital of St. Cross, about fifty years after the death of Wykeham.

SKETCH VI.

WINCHESTER. DESCRIPTIVE NOTICE.

"When wealth to virtuous hands is given
It blesses like the dews of Heaven :
Like heav'n it hears the orphans' cries,
And wipes the tears from widows eyes." GAY,

THE city of Winchester is situated, principally, on the western bank of the river Itchen. The High street, which is about half a mile in length, extends from the bridge to Westgate, and from it diverge, on both sides, a number of less important streets. The portion of the town eastward of the river, and the southern suburb of the city, as confined within its ancient ramparts, has long been known as the *Soke*, and is a Liberty belonging to the Bishop of Winchester, who appoints constables and other manorial officers.

The houses have, in general, an unpretending appearance, and are mostly of modern erection, nearly the whole of the antique buildings having gradually disappeared during the present century. Eighty years ago the town was neither paved nor lighted, whilst a gutter ran down the middle of the High street, then extremely narrow in some parts, and inconvenient and dangerous from the overhangings of many of the houses. In the wide part, now the fair ground, stood a number of dilapidated houses, amongst which were the County and City Bridewells.

Winchester possesses no manufactures, whilst its trade depends upon its surrounding neighbourhood, its being the county town, and on the number and wealth of its public institutions. I shall now proceed to notice its more modern erections, and then other matters connected with the city.

The Guildhall, which stands on the south side of the High street, was erected in 1713, on the site of a more ancient building, dedicated to the same purpose. The appearance of the exterior has been spoiled by the construction of shops under it, by which the effect of the bold Tuscan pillars that support it is totally destroyed. The front of the hall is ornamented with a large clock projecting to the middle of the High street, the gift of Sir William Pawlett, whose arms appear above the dial, and by an elegant statue of Queen Anne, presented by George Bridges, esq. who represented the city in seven successive Parliaments. The interior is convenient, and consists of a hall, in which the Sessions and Council Meetings are held, and a Grand Jury chamber in which the magisterial business of the borough is transacted twice a week.

The Market House is a neat building erected in 1772, for the sale of butter, eggs and poultry. Previous to that date, the articles were exposed for sale round the City Cross, thence vulgarly termed the Butter Cross, and in the Pent House, extending from the Cross, on the south side of the High street.

St. John's House, near the eastern extremity of the same street, occupies the site of a hospital, said to have been originally founded in 934, by St. Berinus, bishop of Winchester, and re-founded by John de Devenish, in the reign of Edward II, but coming within the provisions of the Act for the Suppression of Chantries, was dissolved at the Reformation, when its site and buildings were granted to the Corporation. The principal apartment is a stately hall, 62 feet long, 36 broad, and 28 high. It contains a full length portrait, painted by Sir Peter Lely, of Charles II, presented by that monarch on the occasion of the freedom of the city being conferred upon him. Adjoining the larger there is a smaller room, and under it, a spacious kitchen and other offices. Behind this building there is an *Alms-house*, founded by Ralph Lamb in 1558, inhabited by six aged women, each of whom receives 10s. besides other allowances.

On the opposite side of the street we have the *Hospital of St. John the Baptist*, a recent erection in the Elizabethian style. The number of inmates is 18, each of whom receives 10s. weekly. This establishment is in the management of Trustees appointed by the Court of Chancery: in connexion with it there is a number of other charities whose united annual incomes amount to several hundred pounds. The whole of these were formerly under the controul of the Corporation, but in the year 1811 a suit was commenced in the Court of Chancery against that body on the grounds of misapplication and mismanagement of the revenues, which, after a protracted litigation of nearly twenty years, was brought to a close by the Corporation surrendering all the powers vested in them by the respective donors of the several charities. Since that time their incomes have been greatly increasd, in some cases even four-fold, as the estates, from which they are derived, were previously let on leases at much below their annual value.

The County Gaol in Jewry street, has occupied that site from the reign of James I. it was rebuilt in 1777, and was considerably enlarged about forty years since, when the present noble front was erected. In relation to this prison, about to be superseded by the erection of another on a different site, and which will combine the gaol and bridewell, a case of great cruelty was here perpetrated about the middle of the last century. A resident of the city was found guilty on the charge of murder, but there were circumstances in the case which at the presnt time would have rendered it no more than manslaughter, and even at that time, when our governors were prodigal of life, were sufficient to obtain for the condemned a respite of the sentence of death, which had been passed against him. The case, it was supposed, was to have been submitted to the judges, yet days, months, and years passed away without any information being received on the subject. It was generally thought that no more notice would be taken of it and that the offender's life would be spared.

This opinion was also entertained by the goaler, who allowed the prisoner a certain degree of liberty, he waited on the other prisoners, went on errands and attended to the goaler's horse. One day he was sent by him as far as Crawley, a distance of five miles, but during his absence, the death warrant, commanding his immediate execution, which had been mislaid for years, in the bureau of the Secretary of State, arrived at Winchester. On the unhappy man's return from Crawley, his almost broken hearted master and keeper informed him of the fatal tidings, and on the following day saw him taken from his custody, by the Sheriff, to suffer the last penalty of the law, after being in prison more than twelve years.

The County Bridewell, which as before mentioned, stands on a portion of the ground formerly occupied by Hyde abbey, was erected near the close of the last century, but has since that time been considerably enlarged. It occupies a low and unhealthy site, low fever being of frequent appearance among the prisoners.

The Union Workhouse, stands on an elevated site without West-gate, and to the west is a large field, known as *Oram's Harbour*, left, by a person of that name, to the boys of the city as a place of recreation.

The Corn Exchange, in the same street, erected in the year 1836, is a handsome and convenient building, with a bold front and noble portico of the Vitruvian Tuscan style of architecture. Towards the street there are two spacious apartments and the residence of the lessee, and behind is a rotunda in which the markets are held, surrounded by excellent stores.

The Catholic Chapel, in St. Peter street, is an unique structure, erected about fifty years ago, by Dr. Milner, in imitation of the ecclesiastical architecture of the middle ages. In the sacristy is preserved an ancient cope, formerly belonging to the cathedral and a processional cross, once the property of the church of Barton Stacey. The entrance from the street is by a Norman

doorway in excellent preservation, which once formed part of the ancient Hospital of St. Mary Magdalene.

The County Hospital is a substantial brick building, of considerable extent, erected about the middle of the last century. This, which was the first establishment of the kind out of London, owes its existence to Dr. Alured Clerk, prebendary of the cathedral and afterwards dean of Exeter. It was opened on the 18th of October, 1736, and fourteen years afterwards, the patients had become so numerous, that the present site was purchased and a house erected, which was enlarged about twenty years ago. The annual expenditure of the year ending June 30, 1845, amounted to £3,298 15s. 6d. and its receipts to £3,483 3s. 11d. The total number admitted since the foundation of the Institution was, in patients, 48,791, out patients 35,000.

The Mechanics' Institution, in the Square, stands over the Shambles, is a neat structure recently rebuilt, and was formerly used as a theatre, a circumstance which was the occasion of a humorous prologue, by Warton. The lecture room is spacious, in the museum are several specimens of virtue, and the library consists of nearly one thousand volumes.

The Cemetery, situated to the south-west of the town, comprises an area of seven acres, laid out with exquisite taste, and contains two chapels, one for the use of the members of the established church, and the other for different denominations of dissenters. They are both of a perpendicular character, the former being larger and more richly ornamented than the latter. At the entrance to the ground, which is open to the public, is a lodge in the Elizabethan style.

Christ's Hospital, or as it is better known—the Blue Alm's House, was founded by Peter Symonds a native of Winchester, and afterwards a mercer of the city of London, for six aged poor men, four boys and a matron to attend to them. The property which arises from the rent of a small estate in Essex, and another in Surrey, is thus expended: to each of the brethren, 8s. 6d.

weekly, and to the matron for herself and boys £1 12s. weekly; in addition to which there are allowances of coals and money on particular days, and the boys on attaining the age of 14 are apprenticed, with each of whom a premium of £30 is given.

Numerous are the remaining charitable institutions, the city being not more famed for its remains of antiquity, than, for its provisions for the demands of age and poverty. Here are to be found asylums for the decayed and infirm, education for the child, a trade for the youth, and "the sinews of war" for him who embarks on the rough sea of competition. Among the most singular, are the *Native's and Citizen's Societies*, for the apprenticing of children, the former established immediately after the fearful visit of the plague in 1669, and the latter in 1720.

Winchester has returned representatives to Parliament without interruption from the 23rd year of Edward I. Previous to the passing of the Reform Act, the franchise was confined to the Corporation, and at the present time, the number of electors are about 650. The city is governed by a Mayor and Corporation, consisting of six aldermen and eighteen councillors, and is divided into three wards. It possesses a Court of Session and a Court of Record, which latter has for several years been in abeyance.

Although the number of parishes is less now than was the case formerly in Winchester, it still comprises seven entire parishes, namely: those of St. Thomas, St. Lawrence, St. Maurice, St. Mary Kalendar, St. Peter Colebrook, St. Swithin, and St. Michael; the greater portion of those of St. Bartholomew Hyde, St. John, St. Peter Cheesehill, Milland, Winnall, and St. Faith, and a small portion of those of Chilcombe and Week, besides which it contains a large quantity of extra-parochial property. The population at the last census, amounted to 11,120, including the garrison, then 990, and the assessment is returned at £41,453. The borough comprises an area of about 850 acres.

The parochial benefices consist of the Rectories of St. Thomas, St. Maurice including St. Mary Kalender and St. Peter Colebrook, St. Michael, and St. Martin Winnall, in the patronage of the Bishop; St. Swithin, St. Peter Cheeschill, and St. Lawrence, and St. Faith annexed to St. Cross; the Vicarage of St. Bartholomew Hyde, and the Perpetual Curacy of St. John, in the gift of the crown.

The following table shows their annual value, and the capabilities of the churches and chapels of the city :

Name.	Value.	Sittings.
Choir of the Cathedral -	-	550
St. Thomas - - - -	£145	rebuilding
St. Maurice - - - -	148	1100
St. Bartholomew Hyde - -	105	370
St. Lawrence - - - -	56	247
St. Michael - - - -	104	408
St. Swithin - - - -	100	80
St. Peter Cheeschill - -	100	341
St. John - - - -	82	303
St. Faith - - - -	-	205
St. Martin Winnall - -	175	99
Chapel of St. John Baptist -	100	176
<hr/>		
Catholic Chapel - - -	-	300
Independent Chapel - - -	-	360
Wesleyan Chapel - - -	-	160
Wesleyan Association Chapel	-	120
Baptist Chapel - - -	-	250

There are parochial daily schools in St. Thomas, St. Maurice, St. Bartholomew Hyde and St. Peter Cheeschill; and Sunday schools in connexion with the several dissenting chapels.

Winchester has two weekly markets, on Wednesday and Saturday, and two annual fairs, namely, the first Monday in Lent and the 23rd and 24th of October; in addition to which, a fair is held on Magdalene hill, August 2, and on St. Giles' hill, 12th of September. The latter was at one period the largest fair in England and extended to sixteen days, during which time, no

business was allowed to be transacted elsewhere, within seven leagues of the hill. The original grant, for one day, was conferred by William the Conqueror on his kinsman Walkelyn, Bishop of Winchester, which was extended by succeeding monarchs. On the hill stood a chapel dedicated to St. Giles, which probably occupied the site of the burial ground.

The fair on Magdalene hill, a mile to the east, is more extensive than the last mentioned, but it severely suffers from the improved manner of transacting business, and the effects of railways and other means of easy and safe conveyances. But a few years since much business was done here in wool and leather; now cheese alone retains its ground, with the exception of the exhibition and sale of horses. It has probably existed nearly seven hundred years—namely, from the foundation of the ancient hospital of St. Mary Magdalene, which formerly stood at a short distance from the fair ground. It was usual at that period to insert in the charters of monasteries, hospitals, &c. a grant to hold an annual fair, or great mart, in its immediate neighbourhood on the festival of the patron saint, by which the inmates of the establishment might lay in necessities for the year. Such appears to have been the case here, as the fair is held on the feast of St. Mary Magdalene, old style.

The hospital comprised suitable habitations for the master and poor folk, and a chapel seventy-six feet in length and thirty-six in breadth, supported with Norman columns of great beauty. In the time of William of Wykeham, the master's share was fixed at four times that of each of the members, but in the reign of Henry VIII the master received the whole of the rents and profits, after paying the brethren and sisters their wages, amounting to £19 12s. 4d. and keeping the building in repair, the annual revenue being at that time, £41 6s. 8d. In the reign of Charles II. the master, brethren and sisters, were obliged to surrender their establishment for the purpose of being converted into a prison of war,

and never afterwards regained it, and about fifty years ago the materials of the building were sold, by the master, to a builder at Winchester, by whom they were removed, leaving not a vestige of this ancient retreat for affliction or poverty. The charter, statutes, and earlier records of the charity are lost, but the establishment still subsists in Winchester, and consists of a master, four brethren and four sisters; the former receives the whole of the rents and profits, after allowing to each of the poor folk, at the rate of about £5 per annum in addition to a small house. The gross annual income varies from £100 to £150.

About a mile to the south-west is the curiously formed hill of St. Catherine, the upper portion of which is surrounded by a deep fosse. The hill derives its name from a chapel dedicated to St. Catherine, which, previously to the time of Cardinal Wolsey, stood on its highest point, the foundations of which were brought to light during the recent visit of the Archæological Association. As it was common in ancient times to erect chapels on the summits of hills, and dedicate them to St. Catherine—as for instance, near Guildford, and at the south-west point of the Isle of Wight—it may be as well to explain the reason for doing so. St. Catherine whose name appears in the English, as well as the Roman Calendar, 25th of November, virgin and martyr, appears to have been a noble lady of Alexandria, in Egypt, who suffered death under the persecution of the Roman Emperor, Dioclesian, in the third century, for her adherence to the Christian faith. About thirty years afterwards, Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, founded a convent on Mount Sinai, in Arabia, which convent still exists, and there is a legend that, soon after the foundation of the convent, one of the monks was informed in a dream, that the remains of St. Catherine had been transported by angels from the scene of her death to the highest point of the mountain. A solemn procession was formed, the highest pinnacle of the amountin was attained, and there were discovered the

mortal remains of the saint, which were immediately conveyed to the convent. From that time to this not only has the convent, but the mountain also, been known by the name of St. Catherine. In those days the name of a saint spread far and wide—that of St. Catherine reached England: chapels on high places were dedicated to her, and, as a natural consequence, the title was applied alike to the hill and the chapel.

This hill has been used for above two centuries as a place of recreation for the students of Winchester College. Near the trees which crown its summit, may be seen traces of the once famed mist-maze, which the collegians formerly felt a pride in preserving, but which is now neglected, filled up, and almost forgotten. Tradition asserts that its origin is to be traced to a boy at Winchester College, who many years ago, had so grossly transgressed, that when the holidays came, and the scholars returned to their respective homes, he was detained a prisoner at school, which lay so heavy on his mind, that he sought relief in cutting on the green-sward this miniature labyrinth, and in writing the words of the celebrated *Dulce Domum*, after which he pined and died, breathing his last under the shade of a spreading elm, long after known as the Domum tree.

SKETCH VII.

THE ENVIRONS OF WINCHESTER.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Chilcomb	2390	1520	269
Morestead	1690	630	86
Owslebury	4560	3526	806
Twyford	4320	4157	1311
Bishopstoke	3362	3486	1137
Otterbourne	2520	3667	621
Compton	1800	4074	304
Hursley	9850	7918	1520
Farley Chamberlayne	1990	1355	149
Sparsholt	3690	2264	375
Lainston	140	180	96
Week	1190	1525	341
Littleton	1300	1126	135
Crawley	2610	2623	372
Martyr Worthy	1970	2050	257
King's Worthy	2190	4104	349
Headbourn Worthy . .	1650	2234	207
Easton	2840	2710	505

At the distance of two miles from Winchester towards the south-east, we have the sequestered village of *Chilcomb*, with its diminutive Norman church; and being surrounded by steep hills and solitary downs on every side, save, on the south-west, with no roads running through it, it seems, but for its easy distance from the city, cut off from all the world. In ancient times the manor, and perhaps the parish, was more extensive than at present. It is mentioned in the *Doomsday Book* as *Ciltecombe*, containing nine churches, four mills, and sixty-eight plough lands, worth £104, and as being held by the bishop, for the support of the monks of Winchester. The whole of the parish is held

under his lordship, with the exception of a single cottage and its small garden, situated in the village, which at some time or other was reclaimed from the waste. The rectory is also in his gift, the tythes of which have been commuted at £161, but for the manor farm and for land which has been detached from it, an annual rent charge of £15 has been paid in lieu of tythes from time immemorial. The name is evidently derived in part from the situation of the village, the British word *comb*, signifying a confined valley.

The parish to the south is *Morestead*, of which one quarter is comprised in Longwood Warren, famed for the flavour of its rabbits. The church is remarkably small, and under its roof is the rectory house, but now given up to the clerk. The living is a rectory in the gift of the bishop, who has recently settled a rent charge of £50. on the incumbent, to arise from the great tythes of East Meon in addition to those of his own, commuted at £162.

Owslebury, the next parish to the south, is not mentioned in the Doomsday Book, as at the period of the compilation of that work it formed part of the manor of Twyford, in which the greater part of this parish is still included. At a very early period the Bishops of Winchester had a residence at Lower Marwell, where Henry de Blois founded a collegiate church, for four priests, with a stipend of 60s. a year each, 20s. for the lights and ornaments of the church, to arise out of the rents of the episcopal manor. Some remains of the palace and chapel are still to be seen, but they are evidently of a far later date than the twelfth century. Upon the deprivation of Bishop Gardiner, in the reign of Edward VI. Dr. John Poynt was appointed his successor, on condition of his resigning to his infant sovereign, or rather his greedy courtiers, several of the episcopal residences and manors, amongst which was Marwell and the manor of Twyford, which were conferred on Sir Henry Seymour, a relative of the then powerful Duke of Somerset.

The church is a cruciform structure, with a tower rising at the intersection. The period of its erection appears to be towards the close of the thirteenth century, which is probably that of the font. This, according to the village tradition, was the last church in the kingdom in which the Catholic Mass was celebrated at the period of the Reformation. As the story goes, after the Act was passed directing the use of the Book of Common Prayer in lieu of the ancient mass, the incumbent persisted in the use of the latter, upon which Sir Henry Seymour, with a number of his domestics, pulled the priest from the altar, cruelly maltreated, and then murdered him. Till lately Owslebury was no other than a chapelry of the vicarage of Twyford, but in 1832, a legal severance took place, and it became a distinct incumbency, principally through the beneficence of the late Mrs. Long, of Marwell Hall, and is of the annual value of £175.

Marwell Hall, the seat of Walter Long, esq. was erected about thirty years ago, on the site of a more ancient edifice, the residence of the Seymour and after that of the Dacre family. In the present structure the general style of architecture, both within and without the house is preserved, and the walls of the principal rooms, including the ancient baronial hall, are adorned with paintings of a superior order. Connected with the old house, there is a melancholy tale, of a young lady who met an untimely death, like that recorded of Tony Foster, in Sir Walter Scott's *Kenilworth*, who having withdrawn herself from her companions in course of some pastime, and to elude their search took refuge in a retired part of the mansion in an ancient massive chest, which closed upon her with a secret spring, and although a search was made for her, it proved ineffectual, nor were her remains discovered till many years afterwards. The identical chest is now the property of the Rev. J. Haygarth, Rector of Upham, and may be seen in his entrance hall. There is another considerable mansion in the parish, formerly known as Longwood,

and now Rosehill, the seat of the Earl of Northesk, the grounds of which contain a number of remarkable fine beech trees.

Between the high lands of Owslebury, and the eastern bank of the river Itchen, stands the Queen of Hampshire villages—*Twyford*; deriving its name from the circumstances of there being here two fords across the river. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book, as belonging to the Bishop of Winchester, containing one church, and four mills, and being worth £15. It was a rectory till Bishop de Blois conferred the great tythes on the hospital of St. Cross, but the manor continued a part of the estates of the see, till the period of the Reformation, when Bishop Poynt surrendered it to Sir Henry Seymour, from whose descendants it passed into those of its present possessors, the Mildmay family.

The pedestrian in search of the picturesque may rest his weary limbs at Twyford—here are subjects alike for his pen and for his pencil. The church is situated on a rising ground, at a short distance from the river and is partially enveloped with noble elms, with a snug and comfortable vicarage house immediately adjoining. In the churchyard stands a noble yew, of large dimensions, with seats beneath its shade, and is kept nicely trimmed, after the fashion of ages long passed by. The interior of the church exhibits some beautiful specimens of ancient architecture; the exterior, though not so striking, exhibits workmanship of an early date, and is surmounted by an embattled tower, presenting a pleasing object in the landscape, and containing a peal of bells not more remarkable for the sweetness of the tones, than for the exquisite taste by which their sounds are sent forth by the villagers. Though at some distance from the village, the approach is easy and pleasant, by an ancient foot path, kept in excellent order, and offering a delightful view of the fertile meadows, the rapid river and “smooth canal,” below; and beyond them a rising ground, tree-crested hills, and open downs. A characteristic of Twyford is, that so large a proportion of its

inhabitants bear the name of Young. Though as before mentioned, a mere village, there is, or at a short time since was, residing in it—Young the Brewer, Young the Maltster, Young the Butcher, Young the Tailor, Young of the Bugle, Young the Miller, Young the Clerk, Young the School master, and Young the retired cit, besides many other families rejoicing in that juvenile cognomen.

In an old mansion situated in the village, bearing the name of Shipley House, it is said that Dr. Franklin wrote his well known Life, while on a visit to Dr. Shipley, then Bishop of St. Asaph. Twyford Lodge a modern erection, the seat of J. T. Waddington, esq. is situated near the church, on grounds delightfully rising from the river, which here forms a broad sheet, and though not extensive, forms a prominent feature in the landscape.

Shawford House, a seat belonging to Lady Mildmay, and at present occupied by General Fredericks, is a substantial mansion, erected in the reign of Charles II. with the materials of the ancient manor house, which occupied the site of the present Twyford Farm. The house stands low, and the grounds are intersected by several streamlets from the Itchen. The Mildmay family have been settled in Hampshire more than two centuries, but are of long standing in Essex, in which at the Reformation, Thomas Mildmay, esq. who was a Privy Councillor, obtained the grant of Chelmsford Priory from Henry VIII. In the reign of Charles I. Sir Henry Mildmay married the daughter and heiress of Sir Leonard Holliday, Lord Mayor of London, who by will, bequeathed a sum of money to be laid out in the purchase of land, to be settled on his daughter and her heirs, with which the manor of Twyford was purchased. This Sir Henry Mildmay was at one time in the service of Charles I. and was a favourite of that Monarch, who obtained a patent, to him and his heirs, to be hereditary masters of the Jewel Office, but being a member of the Long Parliament, he took part with that body against his former patron, and upon the over-

throw of the monarchy he was appointed one of the Judges at the trial of his Sovereign, and although he sat in that capacity but a single day, and was not among the number of those who signed the warrant for the King's execution, yet at the Restoration, although his life was spared, he was brought to the bar of the House of Commons, and condemned to forfeit his fine estate at Wanstead, and his place at the Jewel Office, to be degraded from all titles of honour and gentility, ignominiously drawn from the Tower to Tyburn and back again, and finally banished the kingdom, and died in exile. The property at Twyford, which was settled on his wife, was exempted from forfeiture and descended to his son, who erected Shawford House. In 1768, the male branch of the family became extinct, and the present Lady Mildmay succeeded, as heiress to her father, to this estate, and eventually to the large estates of other branches of the Mildmay family in Essex. On her marriage with Sir Henry St John, of Dogmersfield, in this county, baronet, her husband assumed the name of Mildmay, but dying in 1808, left his widow and a numerous family surviving.

Brambridge House is another of the mansions of this parish, the approach to which is by a noble avenue of beech trees. The manor is mentioned in a grant of Edward the Elder to the cathedral of Winchester, at the commencement of the tenth century. It was formerly the seat of a Catholic family, of the name of Wells, the last of whom was warmly attached to the dynasty of the Stuarts, having committed himself by some unwarrantable expression, was obliged to seek refuge and secrecy in the house of another Catholic family, of the name of Smythe, in Shropshire. When the day of trouble had passed by, and the offence forgiven or passed over, he was allowed to return to his patrimonial estates. With a generous and noble mind, he did not allow to pass unrequited the benefactor who gave him refuge in the storm, and being without family himself he settled at his death his estate at Brambridge

on the family of his friend, to whom it has descended to his grand-daughter the present proprietress.

Twyford is a vicarage in the patronage of Emanuel College, Oxford, founded by Sir Walter Mildmay, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and is of the annual value of £213, according to the late Parliamentary Returns. There is a district church, with parsonage adjoining, lately erected on Colden Common; and at Brambridge a Catholic chapel, endowed by one of the Wells' family. Here is also an endowed school, founded under the will of R. Wooll, esq. for twenty-four poor children, which has an income of £26 6s.

Still pressing southward we have next the parish of *Bishopstoke* situated on both sides of the Itchen, but the larger portion of it, including the village and church, is on the eastern bank. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to the bishop, hence the prefix to the term *stoke* or *stoches*, usually applied to places situated on the main stream of some river, and as containing a church and a mill. The ancient church has given place to the present light, elegant and convenient structure, and the living, which is a rectory in the gift of the bishop, is of the gross annual value of £640.

Otterbourne, the adjoining parish to the north-west, is said to derive its name from the number of otters that formerly infested its water; but, the word probably signifies the *other bourne*, in contradistinction to that portion of the Itchen vale above Winchester. It has been conjectured that a hard contested battle took place in the vicinity of the village between the Romans and the Britons, in which the former were defeated, and obliged to take refuge in Winchester. This supposition has arisen from the fact that some years ago a medallion bearing the head and inscription of Julius Caesar was found in a sandpit, as fresh and perfect as if lately from the hands of the artist, and which was such as was usually placed on the Roman standard, and was buried to prevent its falling into the hands of the victorious Britons. At the period of the Norman Conquest, Otterbourn

possessed a church and fishery, and in the adjoining manor, now tything, of Boyatt there were two mills. The church, a modern erection, is an elegant cruciform structure in the Early English style, and being seated on an eminence, is a pleasing object, not only from the road, but from the railway. The living is a chapelry annexed to the vicarage of Hursley.

The next parish to the north is *Compton*, the village of which is situated in a narrow dell, open to the east, the site clearly explaining the derivation of the name. In the Domesday Book it appears that the manor was held by William the Archer, and that, in the time of Edward the Confessor, it was held by five thanes, who were allowed to remove to where they pleased. At the period of the survey it contained seven ploughlands, a mill, which paid twenty shillings, and eight acres of meadow. On the down, which almost entirely surrounds the village, there are some barrows, and at its north western extremity there are traces of Oliver Cromwell's temporary encampment, when two centuries ago he bombarded the Castle of Winchester, then garrisoned and defended for the King. A raised platform of earth under a small plantation of firs, still bears the name of Oliver's battery. The church is of Norman foundation, with windows of a later date. In the churchyard lie the mortal remains of the highly respected and much beloved G. Huntingford, Bishop of Hereford and Warden of Winchester College. Here his lordship commenced his ministry as a humble curate, and preached his first sermon; and near the spot where his labours commenced, he selected his last resting place, not within the walls of the edifice, but with that humility which marked his whole career, in the common ground. The tythes of the rectory, which is in the gift of the Bishop of Winchester which have been commuted at £329.

The extensive parish of *Hursley* abutting those of Otterbourne and Compton on the west comes next. The name which signifies a woody pasture, does not appear in the Domesday Book. The principal antiqua-

rian features of Hursley are the ruins of Merdon, one of the many embattled seats of the Bishops of Winchester. From the time of Kinegils, 1200 years ago, the manor of Merdon comprising the greater portion of the parish of Hursley, was part of the possessions of the see of Winchester. In the reign of King Stephen, Bishop de Blois transferred the episcopal sylvan residence at Merdon into a castle, as he had previously done at Waltham, surrounding it with a rampart and a double fosse, but was obliged to dismantle it in the following reign, and from that time it was suffered gradually to become ruinous and unfit for habitation. At present the only remains are a deep well, shapeless ruins of thick flint walls, a portion of the keep, and portions of the ditch and rampart. Merdon which was one of the manors surrendered by Bishop Poyntet, as the price of his see was granted to Sir Philip Hobby, and although it was in the reign of Queen Mary restored to the church, was regained by him on the accession of Elizabeth.

In the middle of the seventeenth century the estate became the property of Richard Cromwell, the son of the celebrated Protector, by his marriage with the daughter and heiress of Richard Major, esq. Richard who possessed neither his father's ambition nor spirit, was glad to escape from "the affairs of state" to spend a social and quiet time at Hursley. It is said of him that, when by deep potations he possessed unusual courage, he would seat himself on an old oaken chest, and boast that he sat on the lives and properties of the best men of England—alluding to the fulsome addresses which were presented to him on his succeeding his father as "Lord Protector of England Scotland and Ireland." In the year 1718, his daughters who had succeeded to the estate as co-heiresses, sold it to Sir William Heathcote, from whom it has descended to his great-great-grandson, the present Sir W. Heathcote, M.P. for North Hants, the fifth baronet. Soon after the purchase of the old mansion, it was pulled down, and the present stately mansion erected. The cause of

the destruction is said to have been that Sir William declared that because the house had belonged to the Cromwells, he would not suffer one brick to remain on another; but it is only fair to add there appears to have been no foundation for the story, inasmuch as the house was in a ruinous condition. In it was discovered the die of a seal, supposed to be that of the Long Parliament. The present mansion, which is pleasantly seated in an extensive and finely wooded park, is a large and handsome building of white brick, with a stone basement and pilasters, and contains spacious suits of apartments; and among some excellent paintings, originals of the two heroes of the Long Parliament—Sir Thomas Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell.

Cranbury Park, the seat of Thomas Chamberlayne, esq. is also in this parish, though nearer the village of Otterbourne than Hursley. The mansion is extensive, and the grounds embellished with a large quantity of luxuriant timber. On Cranbury down are the remains of several old entrenchments, and many barrows.

Of the architectural beauty of the parish church of Hursley nothing can be said, it having been erected at the time when ecclesiastical architecture was at its lowest ebb—namely, about a century ago. The tower at the west end, is however, an exception, being the work of either Edyington or Wykeham, the improvers of Winchester Cathedral. In the church there are monuments of ancient date, one of which is to the memory of the widow of Thomas Sternhold, who with Hopkins turned the Psalms into rhyme, old version. The inscription is—

If ever chaste or honest Godly life
Myght meryte prayse of everlasting fame,
Forget not then the worthy Sternhold's wife.
Our Hobbies wake, Ane Horswell call'd by name.
Frome wohme alas, to some for her's here left.
Hath God her soule: and doth her lyfe byrest.

Anno 1550.

A plain stone marks with this inscription the last resting place of him who once sat in the seat of Kings, and whose word was for a time law—

Richard Cromwell,
the father of Elizabeth Cromwell,
Died 12th of July, 1712.

The district church near the hamlet of Ampfield, is a handsome structure, surrounded on all sides by sylvan scenery. The living was originally a rectory in the patronage of the bishop, but towards the close of the thirteenth century, Bishop Pontissera conferred the great tythes of Hursley and Otterbourne on his newly founded collegiate church of St. Elizabeth, Winchester. At the Reformation, the tythes became the property of the dean and chapter, in whom they are still vested, and are held on lease by Sir William Heathcote, the patron of the vicarage, the tythes of which have been commuted at £260.

The parish of *Farley Chamberlayne* adjoins that of Hursley on the north-east, and is mentioned in the Domesday Book as *Farlege*, held of the King, by Siric, his chamberlain—hence the adjunct to Farley. There is nothing worth our notice in this upland parish, save the miniature pyramid known as Farley Mount. This singular erection—from the spot on which it stands may be seen Salisbury spire, and which is visible from many points,—was erected by an ancestor of the Mildmay family, Sir Henry Pawlet, in memory of a favorite horse, which leaped with his master on his back, whilst enjoying the pleasures of the chase, down a neighbouring chalk pit forty feet in depth, without injury to horse or man, and the same year won one of the plates at the Winchester races. The living is a rectory, the Rev. T. Woodham, patron and incumbent, the tythes of which have been commuted at £340, with a glebe valued at £75.

Sparsholt the next village to the north, probably derives its name from its growth of underwood. The church contains nothing remarkable, but at Mere Court

Manor Farm, a quantity of tessellated pavement and other Roman remains were discovered, which seems to indicate the spot was the site of a Roman villa. The living is a vicarage in the patronage of Queen's College Oxford, of the net annual value of £363.

A much smaller and less populous parish than any of the above mentioned now claims our notice, namely, *Lainston*, containing but one house, and about 140 acres of land. It is a rectory in the gift of the proprietor of the estate, and appears in the Parliamentary Returns of the annual value of £36. The house, which is a noble pile, with an avenue in front a quarter of a mile in length, has been converted into a lunatic asylum. Close adjoining are the ruins of the parish church, in which Miss Chudleigh, afterwards the Duchess of Kingston, one of the maids of honor to Queen Caroline, wife of King George II. married Captain Hervey, afterwards Earl of Bristol, in 1742. In a short time the parties became dissatisfied with each other, and the lady being desirous of putting an end to the tyranny which her husband had exercised over her, came to Lainston, and finding the clergyman who married her was dead, and that the Registry book was in careless hands, demanded an inspection, and having blinded the eyes of the clerk with a handsome gratuity, extracted from the book the record of her marriage. When Captain Hervey succeeded to the Earldom of Bristol, her ladyship wished to place things as they originally stood, the Lainston clerk was quite willing to do her ladyship's bidding, and for a second gratuity sewed in the copy. The Duke of Kingston fell in love with her ladyship; the Earl of Bristol would and would not consent to a divorce, the matter was brought before the Ecclesiastical Courts, and although no sentence was passed, it was considered that Captain Hervey's marriage with Miss Chudleigh was null and void, and thereupon the lady became Duchess of Kingston. Whilst the Duke lived, no question was raised as to the validity of the marriage, but after his death the Duchess, who had succeeded to the

greater portion of his property, was charged with bigamy, tried before the House of Lords and found guilty, 1776, upon which she retired to the Continent, where she lived for twenty years in the enjoyment of the property bequeathed to her by the Duke, which his relations vainly attempted to wrench from her.

The parish of *Week*, to the south-east of that of Sparsholt, is situated partly within the borough of Winchester, but the church and village are at the distance of a mile from the town. The church which is of Norman foundation with later details, contains a very curious monumental brass, representing St. Christopher carrying our Saviour, under which is the following inscription:—

Here lyeth William Complyn and Ann his wife;
the which William deceased the 21st day of May,
in the year of our Lord, 1497. Also, that this be
the deeds that the said William have done to this
church of Wike, that is to say---first dedication of
the church, 40s; to make new bells to the same
church, £10; and gave to the hallowing of the
great bell 6s. 8d.; and for the testimonial of the
dedication of the said church 6s. 8d. on whose soul
Jesus have mercy. Amen.

The living is a rectory in the gift of the bishop, the tythes of which have been commuted at £260.

Two miles further northward, we have another small village with its diminutive Norman church, namely, *Littleton*, which is a perpetual curacy, in the gift of the dean and chapter of Winchester, who are the appropriators of the tythe, with the exception of that of the manor farm which is tythe free.

Crawley, the adjoining parish to the north and west, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to the Bishop of Winchester, under whom the greater portion of it is still held, and who is the patron of the living; and as containing fourteen ploughlands, twenty acres of meadow land, a church, woods that furnished fifteen hogs, and as being worth £40. The manor was sequestrated and sold by order of the Long Parliament in

1648, when it realised £836 11s. 6d. but was regained by the see at the Restoration. The church is of a later period than the two last mentioned, but still of considerable antiquity, and exhibits an appearance of the Early English character. The rectory includes the chapelry of Hunton, the tythes of which have been commuted at £657.

Directing our steps towards the east, we reach, within a short distance, the Itchen valley above Winchester, where we find three parishes called Worthy, a word, which according to Camden, signifies a farm or village. The name occurs frequently in the Domesday Book as that of several manors, containing together three churches and four mills.

Martyr Worthy is the most distant from Winchester, but whence its peculiar appellation, is unknown. The church, which has two doorways surmounted with the well known Norman zig-zag ornament, has been completely modernized. The living is a rectory in the patronage of the bishop, the tythes of which have been commuted at £448,

King's Worthy was, at the compilation of Domesday Book, held by the King, hence its appellation. Afterwards it became part of the possessions of Hyde Abbey, a tything in it being still known as Abbot's Worthy. The living is a rectory in the gift of Sir Thomas Baring of the gross annual value of £462. The rectory house recently erected, is a handsome structure in the Elizabethan style of architecture. Worthy Park the residence of John Hardy, esq. is situated to the north of the village. The mansion erected by Sir Charles Ogle, in 1816, and greatly improved by S. Wall, esq. is seated on a rising ground commanding an extensive and charming prospect, is a handsome Grecian structure. The grounds though not extensive are well timbered and of a pleasing character.

Headbourn Worthy, or as it was sometimes called Mortimer Worthy, was held at the period of the compilation of the Domesday Book, by Ralph de Mortimer,

and subsequently by Hyde abbey. The church is an ancient foundation, and contains for so small and insignificant erection a great number of interesting memorials: amongst which may be mentioned the mutilated vestiges of three figures, carved in stone, nearly of the usual stature of the human form, and which appear to represent our Saviour on the Cross, attended by the two Marys, one on each side. The figures are now flat and even with the wall into which they are inserted, and bear evidence of the puritanical violence of the century which succeeded the Reformation. In the church yard, beneath a plain raised tomb, repose the remains of the celebrated antiquarian, Bingham, who was rector of this parish and died in 1723. Headbourn Worthly is a rectory, in the gift of the University College, Oxford, of the value of £420.

On the other side of the river is the parish and village of *Easton*, mentioned in the Domesday Book as a manor belonging to the Bishop, and as containing two chapels, two mills, eleven ploughlands, fifty-eight acres of meadow, and woods which furnished fifteen hogs. Here, as elsewhere, the only antiquarian object is the church, retaining what few cathedrals and churches have done, namely—a semicircular termination of the east end, as was frequent with many of the Norman churches, Norwich cathedral being a case in point. Other portions of the building are of an early date in which the Norman and early English style are curiously blended together. Till of late years, there was a curious wooden screen of Gothic work which separated the chancel from the body of the church, such as I stated formerly existed in our English cathedrals, and is still to be seen in the cathedrals of France dividing the nave from the choir. The southern doorway, untill lately hid by an ugly porch, is a rich specimen of the late Norman architecture. The arch is recessed and highly ornamented, and supported on each side by a cluster of three columns, the capitals of which are carved with rich foliage. On the south side of the chancel is a mural monument to

the memory of Agatha, relict of William Barlow, Bishop of Chichester, which records the singular fortunes of their five daughters who were married to five Bishops. The living is a rectory in the gift of the Bishop, the tythes of which have been commuted at £620.

SKETCH VIII.

ALRESFORD AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Old Alresford	3660	3565	502
New Alresford	1250	3427	1578
Medstead	2530	2201	450
Wield	2100	1430	278
Bradley	670	805	125
Preston Candover . . .	3430	2519	481
Chilton Candover . . .	2190	1085	103
Brown Candover	1230	1488	313
Woodmancote	1260	774	93
Northington	1580	2188	286
Swarraton	1710	536	108
Itchen Stoke with . . .	2850	2210	325
Abbotston			
Itchen Abbas	1980	2094	251
Avington	1820	1498	204
Ovington.	1270	1023	163
Tichborne.	3060	2162	340
Cheriton with	2980	2282	556
Beauworth.			
Hinton Ampner	1640	2048	360
Kilmston	1740	1099	256
Bramdean	1360	1202	225
West Tisted	2970	1945	771
Ropley	4060	3943	517
Bishop's Sutton	3510	3138	284
Bighton	1580	1697	252

THERE are two parishes of the name of Alresford, namely, *Old Alresford*, in which is situated the mother church, and *New Alresford*, which, with *Medstead*, are chapelries to it, in the patronage of the bishop, of the gross annual value of £1,600. Alresford is of great antiquity, and was included in the grant of land, said to be the whole territory that surrounded Winchester for seven miles, that Kenewalk, King of the West Saxons,

bestowed on the bishop and cathedral of that city, twelve hundred years ago. In the Domesday Book it is stated that Alresford was assessed at forty-three hides, and that it contained forty ploughlands, nine mills, and three churches; and from the extent here mentioned, it is probable, that it consisted not only of the two parishes still bearing its name, but others adjoining it, and that the three churches were situated as now—at Old Alresford, New Alresford, and Medstead.

Old Alresford is situated on the eastern side of the Arle, the middle one of the three streams which form the Itchen, and evidently derives its name from the fact that in ancient times there was there a ford across the stream or river. The church is a substantial building, erected about the middle of the last century, with a tower of much older date. Alresford pond, the reservoir from which the Itchen is in great part supplied, was constructed by Bishop de Lucy, in the reign of Richard I. and extended at that time over a space of two hundred acres. The Prelate's object in the formation of this pond, was the regulating of a constant supply to the river Itchen, which he rendered navigable from Southampton to Alresford; but this useful undertaking was destroyed in the unquiet times which followed, and it was not till the reign of Charles II. that the present canal, from Northam to Winchester, was formed. There are many evidences left that the bishop carried his object into effect, and at Winchester a portion of the main stream is known as the "old barge river." The pond now contains about sixty acres, and was held by the late Lord Rodney, by a lease of lives of the Bishop of Winchester.

New Alresford situated about half a mile eastward of Old Alresford, is a neat, commodious, thriving market town, whilst the latter remains what it was a thousand years ago, a mere village. Though never surmounted by frowning battlements, nor has it at any time been beleaguered by an armed host, it has experienced in the course of the seven last centuries, some of those mutations to which all places and persons are subject. The town

probably existed at the period of the Norman Conquest, as within a century and a half of that event, Bishop de Lucy enlarged the town which had fallen to decay, restored the market which had been disused, and conferred on the place the name of Newmarket. As to how long the town retained its new title we have no evidence, but within a century afterwards it is again mentioned as Alresford, and as returning a representative to the Parliaments held in the 23rd, 25th and 26th of Edward I. How, and when it ceased to enjoy the honor is unknown, but it is said that the town begged to be excused, on the ground that the expence of maintaining a representative was greater than it could afford. The decay of the neighbouring city, Winchester, had an effect on the prosperity of Alresford, and in the reign of Edward IV. the inhabitants were reduced, by pestilence and fire, to such distress that the agent of the Bishop of Winchester could not collect the quit rents due to his lordship. Within a few years afterwards, Alresford was again a flourishing town, teeming with fullers, dyers and clothiers, and had within a mile of the place, four corn and six fulling mills. Again the trade turned, and within fifty years the town was in great decay, the markets, fairs, and the exercise of trade and merchandise discontinued. During the civil war between Charles I. and his Parliament, the inhabitants of Alresford seem to have been attached to the latter. The town, however, was for a short time the head quarters of Lord Hopton, who commanded the King's forces in these parts; but after the defeat of the royal cause, on Cheriton, they evacuated, though not till they had set it on fire, in revenge for the well-known republican tendency of the majority of the inhabitants. In 1689, the town again suffered from a fire which destroyed the church, market house, town-hall, and nearly the whole of the houses; and in 1736, a similar misfortune befell the town, but not to the extent of the former fire.

New Alresford is situated on a hill; the streets three in number, are broad and clean, but unpaved, and has an excellent neighbourhood, the country round about it

being thickly studded with gentlemen's houses. Nothing can be said of the architectural beauties of the church, which is more commodious than handsome; it was rebuilt after the fire in 1689. It appears that, previous to the Reformation, there was here a religious foundation for a warden and five priests, of which no mention is made by Dugdale, nor is it now known what constituted its possessions.

Though it has long ceased to return members to Parliament, and has no Municipal Corporation, or possesses either a town-hall or market-place, it is sometimes called a borough. It boasts of a bailiff and eight principal burghesses, whose jurisdiction is manorial and whose revenues arise from the tolls of the fair. Previously to the year 1789, this body, or corporation if they may be so termed, held courts for the recovery of debts, trespasses, &c. but it is questionable whether they had any authority for these matters beyond custom. The present body exist by a grant from the Bishop of Winchester, granted as early as the commencement of the seventh century. Although the labors of the worthy bailiff and his brethren be light, they still retain the good old English custom of merry-making at the annual election of the bailiff. At this feast of the Alresford corporators, turtle from London, and venison from the Grange (Lord Ashburton's Park), smoke on the table, which is duly washed down by successive bumpers of fine old port.

The grammar school of Alresford was founded under the will of Henry Perin, esq. of Wear House, near Alresford, in 1698, for the education of nineteen poor men's sons, inhabiting Old or New Alresford, Bishop's Sutton and Cheriton. By the report of the Parliamentary returns of Charities, it appears that the governors consist of eight trustees and the rectors of Cheriton, Old Alresford, Bighton and Bishop's Sutton; but that the trustees only have the power of appointing and removing the master and scholars, and managing the revenues of the school. The master's qualification is that he has not the cure of souls. The instruction prescribed is Latin, writing and arithmetic; and at the time of the

enquiry, nineteen boys were taught reading, writing arithmetic and grammar, and those who desired it the classics, of which two boys were then enjoying the benefit, and the master was allowed to receive other scholars. It also appeared that the annual income amounted to £143 13s. arising from the rent of five closes in the parish of New Alresford, amounting to nearly fifty-two acres of land.

Medstead which lies six miles from the town of Alresford toward the north-east, on an elevated site far above the springs, suffers much in dry summers from the want of water, which is then brought from the distance of several miles for the supply of cattle and other domestic purposes. The church is a rude structure of Norman foundation, but garbled and patched and plastered over by modern repairs.

The adjoining parish to the north is *Wield*, a name which infers that it was formerly a forest. It is mentioned in the Doomsday Book as belonging to the bishop but possessing neither church nor mill. It was one of the manors surrendered by Dr. John Poynt as the price of the bishoprick, when it was conferred on Sir Oliver Wallop, an ancestor of the Earl of Portsmouth, who is the impropiator of the tythes and the patron of the living, which is a Perpetual Curacy of the annual value of £64. The church is an ancient edifice, and contains a curious monument, exhibiting the recumbent effigies, dressed in the fashion of the day, of William Wallop, esq. once High Sheriff of the County and twice mayor of Southampton, who died in 1617, and Margaret his third wife.

The parish of *Bradley* to the north contains nothing worthy of notice. The church is a small plain structure and the living, which is a rectory in the patronage of E. Rumbold, esq. M.P. of Preston House, is of the gross annual value of £260.

To the west of the two last mentioned parishes, we have three others bearing the name of *Candover*, situated on the upper or most northerly of the three streams which constitute the Itchen. At the commencement of

the tenth century, Edward the elder conferred Candover with ten hides of land on the New Minster or Monastery, founded by his father Alfred the Great at Winchester. At the time of the compilation of the Domesday Book the abbey only held five hides, the remainder being held by followers of the Norman Conqueror; and the probability is that William, who had seized the possessions of the abbey in consequence of Alwyn and eleven of his monks fighting against him at Hastings, where they were all slain, restored to the abbey a portion of its possessions, and retained the remainder, which he conferred on those who had fought his battles, and gained for him the crown of England.

Preston Candover, where the stream takes its rise, is the most northerly. The church is an ancient edifice, but disfigured by modern repairs and alterations. Within the altar rails is a monumental stone and brass plate, representing a female figure, arrayed in the fashion of "the days of good Queen Bess." The living is a vicarage with the chapelry of Nutley annexed, in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Winchester, who are the appropriators of the great tythes, and is of the annual value of £214.

Chilton or Chalky town Candover comes next in descending the course of the stream. The church is a small neat structure of ancient date, but possesses no feature of interest. The living is a rectory in the patronage of Lord Ashburton, the tythes of which have been commuted at £232.

Brown Candover comes next, and is a rectory with the chapelry of Woodmancot annexed, in the gift of Lord Ashburton, of the gross annual value of £400. The word Brown is supposed to be a corruption of Bourne, the small rivulet which rises in Preston Candover, assuming near the village the rise and character of a brook. The church which was erected last year at the sole expense of the noble patron of the living, is a neat structure in the Early English style, and contains a handsome sculptured stone pulpit, whilst all the sittings are free.

Northington, which has given the title of Earl to the Henley family, and which contains the stately mansion and noble park of Lord Ashburton, called the Grange, next claims notice. This, like all the land round about it, appears at one time to have been in the possession of the church. The living is a chapelry, attached to Mitcheldever; and the present church, erected by the noble proprietor of the estate, on the site of the ancient one, which had become dilapidated, is a neat and commodious building in the Gothic style of architecture. The park and mansion of the Grange owe their origin to the Henley family, who appear to have become possessed of the estate in the reign of James I. Henry Henley, esq. afterwards first Earl of Northampton and Lord Chancellor of England, 1764, formed the beautiful piece of water, and greatly improved the house and park. At the extinction of the title of Earl of Northington in 1786, the estate was purchased by Henry Drummond, esq. and during the minority of his grandson, was for some time occupied by the Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV. From Mr. Drummond it passed, by purchase, into the hands of the present proprietor. Great additions and improvements have been made by Lord Ashburton to the mansion, originally erected by Inigo Jones, and though small, considered one of the best and most tasteful of his productions. His lordship has also erected a spacious conservatory, extended the park, enlarged the piece of water and beautified its banks, newly laid out the gardens, and above all, annexed to the estates and manors held by the Earls of Northington, the manors of Chilton and Brown Candover, Woodmancote, Abbotstone, and Itchenstoke, together with lands in Old and New Alresford, Stratton and Crawley, to the extent of about 12,500 acres.

Swarraton, which is supposed to signify the town or village of the black wood, the vale at one time abounding with yew trees, many of which still exist, is the next parish to the south. The church is a pretty picturesque object, situated in the Grange Park, and the living a rectory in the gift of Lord Ashburton, is of the gross annual value of £120.

Abbotstone, once a distinct rectory but now united to Itchen Stoke, does not possess at the present time a church. The manor is mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging with several of its adjoining manors to the New Monastery at Winchester whence its name. It was subsequently held by the Pawlett family, who had a mansion here, and at present forms part of the possessions of Lord Ashburton.

Itchen Stoke, on the main stream of the Itchen, is the adjoining parish to the south. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to the Nun's Abbey at Winchester. The old church which stood near the present vicarage house, was, like nearly the whole of the churches in the valley of the Itchen, of Norman foundation. The present church, a neat Gothic erection, on an elevated site, was erected in 1831, by Lord Ashburton, the impropiator of the tythes and the patron of the vicarage, which is, including the rectory of Abbotstone, of the gross annual value of £320.

The next parish to the east is Itchen Abbas, which, previous to the Norman Conquest formed part of the abbey of Romsey, a fact which accounts not only for its name, but for the existence of a sinecure prebend in the church; the holder of which, in catholic times, was required to preach in turn to the abbess and nuns of that establishment. The church is small, and contains windows of a perpendicular character, but the doorways are Norman. The living is a rectory; patron and incumbent, the Rev. R. Wright, the tythes of which have been commuted at £518.

On the opposite side of the river we have the parish of *Avington*, containing the Hampshire seat of his Grace the Duke of Buckingham. There are no antiquarian remains at Avington; even the church is a modern erection, being but little more than a century old. In the year 961, King Edgar, styled in the deed of grant "Edgar by the grace of the Deity above, illustrious King of the Angles and of all the nations around," conferred on the cathedral of Winchester five manses at

Afintune; and in the Domesday Book it is mentioned as belonging in part to the cathedral, and in part to the nuns of Winchester, and as containing a church and half a mill. It remained in the possession of its ecclesiastical proprietors till the period of the Reformation, when it passed into the family of Clerk, but in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it was purchased by an ancestor of the late Duchess of Buckingham. The mansion is situated near a spacious sheet of water constructed by the last Duke of Chandos, who dismantled the old house, and may be said to have rebuilt it. The park, about three miles in circumference, is beautifully diversified by hill and dale, and contains a luxuriant growth of timber.

Ovington is situated on the Itchen above Avington, and also on its southern tributary stream. The church is a Norman structure, but sadly disfigured by modern repairs and alterations; and the living is a rectory, in the patronage of the bishop, of the gross annual value of £219.

The first parish above Ovington on the southern or parent stream of the Itchen is *Titchbourne*, called *Ticcebourne* in the Domesday Book, from which the name of Itchen is said to be derived. By old writers the northern stream is called the Candover, and the middle stream, on which is situated Alresford, the Arle, leaving the southern stream undisputed to be regarded as the Itchen. Trussell, in his MS. History of Winchester, says that Bishop de Lucy having caused to be made the great causeway at the head of the pond between Old and New Alresford, and drained the bogs, and caused the waterfalls to run into one current, and to join in one with the waterfalls of *Itchyn*, at the head of which water the ancient and right worthy family of Titchbornes had their habitations before the Conquest, and hence their denomination *De Ytchingbourne* into Titchborne. A still earlier and more generally known authority, the illustrious Camden, gives to Titchbourne its derivation, the Bourn of the Itchen, plainly showing

that the southern branch was nearly three centuries ago regarded as the parent stream.

Tichborne has for many centuries been the seat of the ancient family of that name, who are unquestionably of Saxon descent. One who had seen the lately deceased baronet, Sir Henry Tichbourne, and surveyed his hale and robust form, his light hair, his clear blue eyes, the frankness and good humour portrayed in his countenance, his jovial frame and bearing, would have been ready to class him with Cerdic the Saxon, so graphically described by Sir Walter Scott in *Ivanhoe*, and would be as ready to acknowledge that he had nothing in common with Sir Reginald Front de Bœuf, Sir Brian de Bois Gilbert, and other Norman knights who figure in the same novel. Within a century of the Conquest, one of the family, Sir Roger Tichbourne, erected the present parish church, and his descendants in their turn have been members and high sheriffs for the county, ambassadors for kings, and formed alliances with the highest and noblest of the land. Sir John Tichborne, in the reigns of Edward II. and III. was high sheriff of Hants, Wilts, and Dorset, respectively, and knight of the shire for the former county; warden of the castle of Old Sarum, and subsequently one of the judges of assize. At the death of Queen Elizabeth, 1603, Sir Benjamin Tichborne, who was then high sheriff of Hants, of his own free will proclaimed as king, James I. before the death of his predecessor was generally known, and for this act of loyalty was rewarded by the grant of the castle of Winchester; in addition to which his four sons were knighted and himself admitted into the privy council. His majesty ever retained a grateful remembrance of the service rendered him, and was a frequent visitor to Sir Benjamin, whom he created a baronet in 1620, and invariably designated *Old Ben*. In the civil war between Charles I. and his Parliament, although the junior branches of the family, who had become merchants of London, sided with the latter, the parent stock upheld

the cause of royalty. For the attachment of Sir Henry to the cause of his sovereign, his estates were sequestrated, but were restored at the Restoration, and Sir Henry made warden of the New Forest, and in the succeeding reign was lieutenant of the Ordnance. From the period of the Revolution, the Tichbornes being Catholics, have not till a very recent period, when the late worthy baronet was high sheriff of the county, filled any civil office. Tichborne Park is small, and the mansion by no means spacious, and of recent erection. The old house, which was pulled down in 1103, exhibited many characteristics of the feudal time, and contained a great number of secret passages, apartments and stair-cases, deemed necessary in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Connected with it is an ancient legend to this effect, that in the reign of Henry I. Sir Roger de Tichbourne married Isabella, the sole heiress of the powerful house of Lemerston in the Isle of Wight. This lady was famed for her piety and charity, and it is said, possessed the power of working miracles. Being worn out with age and infirmities, she petitioned her husband for the means of instituting a dole of bread, to be given to all poor persons who might ask for it, on every succeeding Lady-day. To this he immediately acceded, promising her as much land as she could encircle in the neighbourhood of the house whilst fire was retained in a billet of wood which he would ignite. Upon this she caused herself to be taken out of bed and carried to a choice piece of land several acres in extent, and fire having been applied to the faggot, commenced crawling upon her hands and knees, and completed the same ere the whole of the wood was reduced to ashes. The spot of land is still pointed out to the north-east of the present mansion, and is known by the appropriate name of *Crawls*. The old lady is said to have threatened the downfall of the house and the extinction of the name of Tichbourne, if any of her successors should be hardy enough to divert her bounty. Such is the reputed

origin of the Tichborne dole, which was annually distributed on Lady-day in 1200 small loaves. In consequence of the disorder which it occasioned in the neighbourhood, the custom was discontinued towards the close of the last century, but money to the amount of the annual cost of the dole is distributed among the deserving poor of the parish.

The church, which crowns the summit of a hill about a quarter of a mile from Tichborne House, is an ancient structure, and exhibits specimens of the early Norman style in great purity. The north aisle is appropriated as a mausoleum for the Tichborne family, and the living is a chapelry attached to the neighbouring rectory of Cheriton.

Proceeding up the bourn we next arrive at the parish of Cheriton, the scene of a hard contested battle (fought March 29, 1644,) during the civil commotions which afflicted this kingdom two centuries ago. In this battle, which is generally known as Cheriton Fight, the royalists, under the Earl of Forth and Lord Hopton, were entirely routed by the Roundheads, commanded by Sir William Waller. It is supposed that each army consisted of 10,000 men, of that of the Royalists, 1,400 were slain or wounded, and that the loss of the Parliamentarians amounted to 900. The event of this battle was disastrous to the royal cause; "it broke," says Lord Clarendon, "all the measures, and altered the whole scheme of the King's council;" Winchester fell into the hands of the enemy, and the royal cause was ruined in the west. There is no mention of Cheriton in the Doomsday Book, although its rectory now includes parishes which are there mentioned, namely Tichbourn, Kilmiston, and Beauworth. At that time Cheriton most probably formed part of the first mentioned parish, but upon the erection of its church was dissevered, and rendered superior to that of which formerly it had been a portion. The church exhibits, like our parish churches in general, a varied style of gothic architecture. Mr. Duthy conjectures that it was erected towards the close of the twelfth century, and that it

was materially improved and altered by Bishop Edyngton, who previously to his elevation to the see of Winchester, held this benefice. The rectory of Cheriton is one of the most valuable preferments in the gift of the bishop, its gross annual value amounting to £1,500. It is a manor, with customary laws and privileges, and the boundaries of the living comprehend a tract of twenty-two miles in circumference. At the north-western extremity of this parish there is an ancient tree, known as the *Gospel Oak*, where, according to tradition, the gospel was first preached in these parts, but which was so denominated, as appears by a document belonging to the see of Winchester, because the gospel was there read in the perambulation of the bounds of the parish.

Of the adjoining parishes of *Beauworth*, *Kilmiston*, and *Hinton Ampner*, little can be said. In the first, a church has recently been erected by the munificence of H. J. Mulcock, esq. the old church having been destroyed for several centuries. In Kilmiston the Itchen takes its rise, and proceeds in a northerly direction till its junction with the Arle and Candover streams; then westward as far as Worthy; and lastly, southward through Winchester till it falls into the Southampton estuary below Northam. Kilmiston is mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to the Bishop of Winchester, and at that time possessed a church. The present edifice is a plain unpretending structure, erected rather more than a century ago. Hinton Ampner was another of the possessions of the see of Winchester at the period of the Conquest. Mention is made of a church which probably occupied the site of the present structure, which, though of an early date, offers nothing worthy of notice; the living is a rectory, in the patronage of the bishop, the tythes of which have been commuted at £469. Here is an endowed school with an income of £140, founded in 1729, under the will of William Blake, esq. of Brookwood House, for all the poor children of the parish, and of which the rectors of Hinton Ampner and Bramdean are the governors.

Bramdean the adjoining parish to the east, is also

mentioned in the Domesday Book. At that period it was held by Milo, the porter of the king, but does not appear to have possessed either church or mill. The present church is a Norman edifice, but displays details of a later period. The chancel is Early English, the walls and windows of which have been judiciously coloured by the late rector, Rev. C. Walters, in the old style of polychrome. The living is a rectory, in the gift of the bishop, of the gross annual value of £235.

About twenty years ago there were discovered in this parish, but near Brookwood House, which is situated in that of Hinton Ampner, the remains of a Roman villa, which by the foundations, must have extended about 250 feet from north to south, and 130 feet from east to west. The site is a gentle eminence, and the remains consisted not only of ancient foundations, but also of a large quantity of rich Roman tessellated pavement only a few feet beneath the surface. It is supposed that the apartments extended round three sides of the area, of which only the east remains; though the disposition of the other rooms and pavement can be made out. The portion remaining has been enclosed and covered by the proprietor, Mr. Greenwood, of Brookwood House. On entering this temporary erection, the visitor finds that this portion of the building was divided into a number of rooms; the foundations of the original walls of separation being visible. The flooring of the whole of them in all probability consisted of tessellated pavement, and in two of them of great beauty. In the centre of one of them is the head of Medusa with her snaky locks, surrounded by an octangular frame of black; without which are eight octagon compartments, which once contained the bust of a heathen deity. Two or three figures have been obliterated; four others are nearly perfect, and display the figures of Venus with her looking-glass, Neptune with his trident, Mercury with his caduceus, and Mars with his lance and helmet. Of the next, though much mutilated, enough remains to indicate Diana with the crescent on her brow; and last, though nearly destroyed, Æsculapius. The pavement

of the Hercules and Antæus room contains a representation of the combat of Hercules and Antæus wrought in coloured tessalæ on white ground; on one side appears the figure of Minerva directing the combat; and on the other, the bow, quiver, and knotted club of Hercules.

The next parish to the east is *West Tisted*, a perpetual curacy belonging to Magdalen College, Oxford, as part of the possessions of Selbourne Priory, of the annual value of £58.

Ropley, to the north, is a chapelry annexed to the vicarage of Bishop's Sutton. The church is an ancient edifice, but disfigured by modern repairs. The present Archbishop of Canterbury is a native of this parish, of which his father was the incumbent for forty years, an office which he himself held for some time.

Bishop's Sutton, the adjoining parish to the west, is mentioned as Subtone in the Doomsday Book, and as containing a church and four mills. It was then a royal manor, but within a century it passed into the hands of the Bishops of Winchester, who had a palace here, of which all traces have long since been obliterated. Tradition still points out the site of the bishop's kennel, for our ancient bishops were keenly alive to the pleasures of the chase; and a farm still bears the name of the Old Park. The church exhibits specimens of the style of architecture in fashion at the time of the erection of the palace, namely, the middle of the twelfth century. On the floor of the chancel is a curious monumental brass representing a knight and lady standing with their hands clasped as if in prayer; the knight is in armour, the lady with peaked hood, ornamented down the sides with jewels and embroidery after the manner of the fifteenth century. The living is a vicarage, with Ropley annexed, in private patronage, of the annual value of £350.

The parish of *Bighton*, to the north of Bishop's Sutton, contains another of those ancient churches so common in this vicinity, and perhaps in no portion of the kingdom are so many curious old churches of Norman and

Saxon foundation to be found so close together as in the Itchen vales above Winchester. They are it is true small, but many of them exhibit beautiful specimens of the genius and taste of a far distant period. The living is a rectory, of the annual value of £400, in the patronage of J. T. Mayne, esq.

To the north of Bighton there is a small extra-parochial place called *Godsfield*, which probably formed a manor and parish of Bishop's Sutton, and was given by Bishop Henry de Blois to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem. This establishment at the Reformation shared the same fate as other religious foundations, but the ancient chapel, twenty-six feet by thirteen, and an adjoining apartment thirteen feet square, are yet standing; and from the traces of the other walls, it is clear that it was never intended for many inmates. The land attached to it is about 418 acres, and has one house situated on the ruins of the ancient preceptory.

SKETCH IX.

ALTON AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Alton	3910	10014	3139
Neatham	1176	1597	104
Holybourne	1150	2000	522
Froyle	3970	4562	849
Bentley	2450	3374	766
Binstead	7060	4004	1055
Kingsley	1640	1913	359
East Worldham	1480	1956	254
West Worldham	750	690	94
Hartley Maudit	1556	1355	84
Selbourn	4410	4102	1052
Headley	7090	2872	1265
Bramshott	6100	3836	1333
Greatham	4230	1096	205
Empshott	1320	611	148
East Tisted	4290	1782	220
Newton Valence	1810	1835	331
Farrington	2430	2390	545
Chawton	2870	2468	460
Bentworth	3770	3151	609
Shalden	1560	1071	185
Lasham	1860	1306	265

ALTON, or the Old Town, which is situated on the ancient Mail road from London to Southampton, at the distance of forty-seven miles from the one and thirty from the other, is the most important town in the north-eastern portion of Hampshire. It was formerly a royal manor, and was granted by Alfred the Great to his newly founded Monastery at Winchester. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as containing four ploughlands and half a mill, and as belonging to the New Monastery, but previous to the Reformation the

appropriation of the great tythes and the patronage of the vicarage had passed into the hands of the prior and monks of the cathedral, whose successors, the dean and chapter still possess them. It seems that Alton was in the reign of William the Conqueror a town of less importance than Neatham, an adjoining extra-parochial place, which at that period possessed a market, for which the annual rent of £8 was paid to the king. The manor consisted of twenty-five ploughlands, occupied by sixteen of the king's servants, fifty-six villagers, and twenty-six borderers. Here were woods which furnished a hundred and fifty hogs, and eight and a half mills, the manor being worth £118. There was however a church within the limits of the present parish, namely, at Wilsham, then called Wildchell.

The only historical event connected with Alton is the defeat of the royal forces, under Colonel Boles, by the Parliamentarians, commanded by Sir William Waller, in 1643. Col. Boles was stationed here with his own regiment of infantry, to the number of 1,800, and two troops of horse. Waller, who was at the time engaged in the siege of Farnham castle, with an army consisting of nearly 6,000, suddenly marched from Farnham, and before day-light entirely surrounded the town of Alton. Boles found means to despatch intelligence to Lord Hopton at Winchester, of his situation, and endeavoured to hold out till assistance might come. His men could not withstand the fearful odds against them; but their commander, resolving to sell his life as dearly as possible, retreated into the church with eighty of his men, and disdaining to receive quarter, which was frequently offered, killed many of them with his own hand, but at length fell, with sixty of his men round about him, after a severe action, which lasted altogether about six or seven hours. Charles I. was so grieved for his loss, that upon receiving the intelligence of his defeat and death, is said to have exclaimed, "Bring me a mourning scarf, for I have lost one of my best commanders."

Alton consists principally of one long street, situated

on the western declivity of rather a steep hill. The town returned a representative to Parliament in the reign of Edward I. and it is now one of the polling places of North Hants. The county magistrates hold here their petty sessions for the division of Alton, and once a month a court is held by the steward of the manor, at which debts under 40s. are recoverable. The market, which till lately was on Saturday, has been altered to Tuesday in every alternate week for the sale of cattle, corn, and other agricultural produce. The fairs are on the last Saturday in April and the 29th of September. The town hall, rebuilt by subscription in 1812, was, till the alteration of the market-day, used principally for the national school, but is now applied to the purposes of the market and other public business. The church, situated on an eminence, is an ancient and spacious edifice, it having been enlarged by the addition of a north aisle; it is supported by columns of Norman character, but the windows are of a much later date. It contains some very curious paintings in fresco, illustrative of Our Saviour's life; and in cleaning the walls in 1839, a portrait of Henry VI. and several bishops was brought to light. From the centre of the church rises a square tower, which is surmounted by a spire of no great altitude. The vicarage, which has been for many years filled by a member of the chapter of Winchester cathedral, has annexed to it the chapelries of Holybourne, Binsted, and Kingsley, and is of the gross annual value of £1050. Here are also places of worship for the Society of Friends and the Independents. A free grammar school was founded at Anstey, in this parish, by John Eggar, in the reign of Charles I. which has an income of £74. 10s. Its management is entrusted to fifteen trustees, who have the power of removing the master and usher. The instruction prescribed is "grammar learning," and at the time of the investigation of the charities, twenty-eight boys of Alton and its vicinity were taught reading, writing, and arithmetic by the usher, under the superintendence of the master,

who was expected to teach Latin to such scholars as should require it.

Alton has given birth to several individuals who enjoyed literary repute. The first in order of time was William de Alton, a Dominican friar, who, during the time of Edward II, wrote on 'The Universality of the Pollution of Mankind by Original Sin.' John Pitts was born in 1660, and was educated at Winchester college, but having embraced the Roman Catholic faith, he left England as an exile and went to Douay, where he taught rhetoric and the Greek language at Rheims, and was made canon of Verdun, and died in 1616. He was the author of the work *De Illustribus Angliæ Scriptoribus*, containing an account of the most famous writers of this island, from the year of the world 2879 to A.D. 1612. William Curtis, born about the year 1746, whose original profession was that of medicine, but which he abandoned, that he might devote his whole attention to botany. He was the author of the *Flora Londinensis*, editor of the Botanical Magazine, and the founder of a botanic garden at Brompton, and died in 1799.

Leaving Alton by the road to London, we have, within the distance of two miles, the pleasantly-situated village of *Holybourne*, with the church situated on the left hand, near to which is Holybourn Lodge, the residence of R. Cole, esq. Here is an endowed grammar school, with an income of £183, of which £70. is applicable to the apprenticing of the children. The master is required to be a clergyman of the Church of England, and the instruction prescribed is Latin and writing for the boys, and reading and needle-work for the girls. The freedom extends to all the children of the parish, rich as well as poor, and twenty children of Alton, Binstead, and Froyle, children of parents not having £10. per annum; they are to be furnished with books and firing, and twenty of the poorest children are to be apprenticed. At the time of the investigation of charities, 49 boys were taught reading, writing, and

arithmetic, and Latin if required, and 27 girls reading and needle-work.

Two miles further on we have *Froyle*, which at the time of the Conquest belonged to St. Mary's abbey of Winchester, was assessed at eight hides, and contained a church and two mills, altogether worth, as stated in the Domesday Book, £15, but paying a rent of £20, and is now the property of the Rev Sir T. Millar, the impropietor of the great tythes, and the patron and incumbent of the vicarage, which is of the annual value of £111. Froyle House is a plain substantial building, with stone quoins and dressings, having numerous gables, as was common in houses of the period of its erection, namely, the close of the sixteenth century, and stands near the western boundary of the park, which is ornamented with some venerable elms of luxuriant growth.

Two miles more in the same direction bring us to *Bentley Green*, on the western skirts of which stands the church and village. The former is a Norman structure, recently enlarged, and is approached by a stately avenue of yew trees, and being seated on an eminence forms a pleasing feature in the landscape. The living is a perpetual curacy, of the annual value of £106, in the patronage of the Archdeacon of Surrey. At Powderham there is a Roman encampment, where tessellated pavement in good preservation have from time to time been discovered.

Quitting the high road, and directing our footsteps southward, we soon reach the village of *Binstead*, and three miles further we have *Kingsley* in the same direction, both chapelries to Alton, and equally devoid of interest. The former occurs in the Domesday Book as a small manor, belonging to Odo, Bishop of Bayeaux, half-brother of William the Conqueror.

The parish of *East Worldham* adjoins that of *Kingsley* on the west, and joined on the south-west by *West Worldham*. These parishes are mentioned in the Domesday Book, the one being called Werileham, and the other Wardham. Neither possessed a church, and the former

only a mill. East Worldham is a vicarage in the patronage of Magdalene College, Oxford, of the annual value of £157; and West Worldham is a perpetual curacy in the gift of Winchester College, worth according to the Parliamentary returns, £38; but has since received two additional endowments of £200 from Queen Anne's Bounty, and £200 from the warden and fellows of Winchester College, who are the appropriators of the tythes, and patrons of the living.

Hartley Mauditt, the adjoining parish to the south, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being held by William de Maldoit, by corruption rendered Mauditt, while the word Hartley signifies a pasture for deer. The church is a curious structure, the erection of which is supposed to have been antecedent to the Norman Conquest, but its original simplicity has been destroyed by the introduction of incongruous workmanship, not bad in itself, but sadly out of character with the style of the original building.

Still further south, we have the parish of *Selbourn*, on whom a lasting celebrity has been conferred by its natal historian and naturalist—the late Reverend Gilbert White. The village, which is situated in a secluded valley, about twelve miles to the south-east of Alton, existed anterior to the Norman Conquest, and was at one period a part of the dowry of Editha, the Queen of Edward the Confessor. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as a royal demesne, being neither assessed nor divided into hides, and as containing a church. In the reign of Henry III. Peter de Rupibus, Bishop of Winchester, founded here a convent for a prior and fourteen canons, upon whom the king not only conferred the manor, but also a charter, granting the usual privileges of abbeys, amongst which was the right of trying and executing criminals, a memento of which still remains in a hillock known as Gally, or Gallows Hill. Within a century from the foundation of the priory, gross irregularities and abuses had crept into the establishment, and to such an extent that the celebrated

William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, severely admonished the prior and canons, observing that every time he had repeated his visitation, he found something not only contrary to regular rules, but repugnant to religion and good reputation.

The reverend fathers, it seems, were as often to be found in the field with horse and hounds as in the cloisters with breviary and beads, the canonical hours were shortened that the time might be devoted to the long winded chace. The convent with its manorial houses and tenements were suffered to become dilapidated, the offices of religion were grossly neglected, and the sacramental furniture was sometimes left in such an unclean and disgusting condition as to make the beholders shudder with horror, and above all money was frequently raised upon the relicts of the saints, the plate, vestments and books belonging to the convent. At this time, the prior and canons escaped with no severer punishment than censure, whilst Wykeham with parental care enabled them to redeem their pledges, pay their debts and repair their buildings. Within a century afterwards disorder and irregularity again prevailed, whilst the number of canons had been reduced to four. At length Bishop Waynfleet having founded Magdalene College, Oxford, and obtained the permission of the Pope, dissolved this convent, and transferred its manors, advowsons, and other possessions to his new establishment.

All vestiges of the priory are gone, but the ancient parish church spoken of in the Doomsday Book still remains. It is a low plain edifice, consisting of a nave and aisles, supported by massive Saxon columns, with a kind of chancel or chantry, on the north side, and surmounted by an embattled tower. The altar piece is decorated with an excellent painting by Albert Durer, representing in two compartments, the offerings of the three wise men of the east to the Infant Saviour; it was presented to the parish by the Rev. G. White. The living is a vicarage in the patronage of Magdalene

College, Oxford, of the gross annual value of £336. In the centre of the village, and near the church, there is a small piece of ground surrounded by houses, formerly called the *Pleystow*, or play place, and now by corruption the *Plestor*, and is about forty-four yards by thirty-six feet in extent, and continues now, as it has been for many centuries, the scene of recreation for the children of the village and neighbourhood. Mr. White, in his *Natural History of Selborne*, says that in the midst of this spot stood, in the old times, a vast oak, with huge horizontal arms, extending almost to the extremity of the area. This venerable tree, surrounded by stone steps and seats above them, was the delight of old and young, and a place of much resort in the summer evenings, where the former sat in grave debate, whilst the latter frolicked and danced before them. This spot of ground was originally granted to the priory by Sir Adam Gurdon, a sturdy supporter of Mountfort, the leader of the Barons in their contention with the crown in the reign of Henry III. but who was not included in the articles of pacification agreed to at Kenilworth. His residence was at Temple, in this parish, to which he retired, and commenced a course of open robbery and plunder, laying all passengers between Winchester and London under contribution, and plundering the estates of those who had supported the royal cause. The fame of his exploits at length induced Prince Edward, the king's son, to enter the field against him, by whom he was surprised and made prisoner. The Prince thinking such a character might be as useful as a friend as he had been dangerous as a foe, immediately pardoned him; which had such an effect on the rugged de Gurdon, that he became a loyal and useful subject, and was trusted and employed in matters of moment by Edward when king, and confided in till the day of his death. In addition to the convent, there was, during the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I. a Preceptory of the Knights Templars at Selbourne, situated in the hamlet of Sudington; the dates of its

foundation and dissolution are unknown, but a manor which belonged to it still bears the name of Temple, and is now, as were all the possessions of Templars in virtue of a Papal grant, tythe free.

The Rev. Gilbert White, whose name has already been mentioned, was born at Selbourn, in the year 1720, he commenced his education at Basingstoke, under the Rev. T. Warton, vicar of that place, and the father of those distinguished characters Dr. Joseph, and Thomas Warton; was admitted at Oriel College, Oxford, in 1739, and was one of the Proctors of that University in 1752. Being of an unambitious temper, and strongly attached to the charms of rural scenery, he early fixed his residence in his native village, not as the minister, but merely as an inhabitant, where he spent the greater part of his life in literary occupations, and especially in the study of nature, which he followed with patient assiduity. Though several times offered the choice of settling upon a college living, he could never persuade himself to quit his native home—a spot peculiarly well adapted for his observations on the operations of nature. After a life which extended to three score and thirteen years, the greater portion of it spent amongst those to whom his youth had been familiar, his manhood useful, and his age respected, and at all times beloved, he quitted this transitory world for one which fadeth not away, June 26, 1793. The remains of Selbourne's local historian, and the first naturalist of his county, rests in the parish church, the exact spot being pointed out by a mural monument erected to his memory. Mr. White is principally known to the world by his *Natural History of Selborne*, (the earlier editions of which included the *Antiquities of the place*,) which professing to be no more than the natural history of a secluded parish, is a book of general interest, embracing in its details varied and extensive enquiries into the phenomena and laws of nature. Although written in an unconnected form, in a series of letters to Thomas Pennant, esq. and the Honourable Daines Barrington, gentlemen of high

literary and scientific acquirements in their day, and without any attempt at systematic arrangement, the minute exactness of the facts and the good taste displayed in their selection, and the elegance and loveliness with which they are described, render this one of the most amusing books of the kind ever published.

Woolmer Forest, a wild district seven miles in length, by two and a half in breadth, situated principally in this parish, was a royal chase, and till the middle of the last century was well stocked with deer. It is mentioned by Mr. White that Queen Anne, as she was journeying on the Portsmouth road, did not think the Forest of Woolmer beneath her royal regard, for she came out of the great road at Lippook, and reposing herself on a bank smoothed for that purpose, and still known as Queen's Bank, saw with complacency and satisfaction the whole of the herd of red deer brought by the keepers along the vale before her, consisting of about 500 head.

Between Selbourn and the county of Surry, we have the two extensive parishes of *Headley* and *Bramshott*, both rectories in the patronage of the provost and fellows of Queen's College, Oxford, the former of the gross annual value of £776, and the latter of £613. *Headley* is mentioned in the Domesday Book, but possessed neither church nor mill, and has a small endowed school, founded in 1755, with an income of £13. *Bramshott* is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being held by Edward of Salisbury of the King, as being assessed at six hides, and as containing five ploughlands, two mills, and worth one hundred shillings. The church, which is an ancient edifice, is built in the shape of a cross, and is divided into a nave and aisles. The nave is the most extensive part of the church, but contains no remnant of antiquity, except the font, of an octagonal form, shaped out of a large stone. In the north aisle there are vestiges of painted glass in the windows, representing the crucifixion, &c. and on the pavement there are some very curious monumental

brasses. The spire, covered with shingles, stands in the centre of the building, on four gothic arches, which spring from low Saxon columns; and in the tower there are six melodious bells.

Returning to the west, we have on reaching the high road from London to Fareham the village of *Greatham*, with its small but handsome church, of the Early English style. The manor was formerly included in that of Selbourn, and in the reign of William the Conqueror consisted of no more than three ploughlands, occupied by seven villagers, with woods which furnished thirty hogs. The living is a rectory, the tythes of which have been commuted at £262.

Still further west, we have the little parish of *Empshott*, which is a vicarage of the net annual value of £103. The church is of an Early English character, and consists of a nave and aisles, supported by a range of pillars and richly moulded arches. The chancel is divided from the nave by a beautiful arch of similar character, and a screen of richly carved oak.

East Tisted is the adjoining parish to the north-west, the village of which is situated on the high road from London to Gosport. Tisted is mentioned in the Doomsday Book as a manor belonging to the see of Winchester, and as containing a church. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of J. W. Scott, esq. of Rotherfield Park, of the gross annual value of £330. Here is an endowed school, with an income of £24, founded originally under the will of P. Valois, in 1760, whose benefaction was increased in 1822, under the will of the Rev. John Williams. A school-house and residence for the master was by the munificence of Mr. Scott, erected in the year 1837. Rotherfield Park, with its spacious demense, for several centuries belonged to the ancient family of the Nortons, one of whom, Sir Richard Norton, rendered himself conspicuous in this county by the services he rendered to the Parliament in its contention with Charles I. Towards the latter end of the

same century, the estate passed by marriage to F. Pawlett, esq. of Amport House, ancestor of the present Marquis of Winchester, whose father sold it in 1808, to James Scott, esq. the father of its present proprietor. The present mansion, which was erected by the elder Mr. Scott, is a noble and commanding edifice, being adorned at its angles with several towers and turrets. The original estate has been considerably enlarged, and improved by extensive planting.

The parish of *Newton Valence* to the north, is a vicarage with the chapelry of Hawkley annexed, of the gross annual value of £512, patron and incumbent the Rev. E. White. Near the village, is the park and residence of H. Chawner, esq. long known as Newton Valence Manor House; it was formerly the seat of Earl Mountmorris, who took his second title, Viscount Valentia, from it. In 1810, it was purchased with the surrounding estate by Mr. Chawner, who converted the old house into domestic offices, and added thereto a villa, in the Grecian style. It contains a large collection of paintings and other works of art, amongst which is the grand Angoulême China Vase, mounted in or-molu, round which is exquisitely painted the Rape of the Rabines, by *David*, and is the same that was rejected by George the IV. for whom it was ordered, in consequence of a small fire-flaw which came in the burning. The parish church is situated within the park, and contains a handsome marble monument of Capt. Nicholas, of the Thunderer, 74 guns, who was lost in a storm, off the island of Hispaniola, in 1780.

Faringdon is the next parish to the north, with a population principally congregated in a town-like village, situated a little to the east of the London and Gosport road. In the centre and at the juncture of four streets, there is a space something resembling the open squares of large cities, surrounded on all sides by houses. The living is a rectory, in private patronage, of the gross annual value of £592.

Still further north, we have the parish of *Chawton*,

the village of which is prettily situated at the junction of the Gosport and Southampton roads, towards London. The church, which is an ancient structure, was enlarged in 1837, and contains a handsome monument of white and black marble, representing Sir Richard Knight, an ancestor of the present proprietor of Chawton Park, by a full cumbent figure of white marble in armour, holding a staff of office in his hand. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of E. Knight, esq. the tythes of which have been commuted at £500, in addition to which there is a glebe worth £60. The manor of Chawton is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being worth £12, and as forming part of the possessions of Hugo de Port. After passing in succession, chiefly through the several female lines to five illustrious families, it was, with the advowson and various adjoining lands, purchased by Nicholas Knight, esq. in whose family it still remains. The park, though not extensive, is ornamented with stately timber, and presents a pleasing and romantic diversity of surface, and from its most elevated situations may be seen the distant hills of the Isle of White. The house, which stands on the side of a hill rising to the north-east, was principally erected about the year 1588, but parts are older. Since the year 1813, it has undergone considerable repairs, due care being taken to preserve the Elizabethan style.

The parish of *Bentworth*, which abuts that of Chawton on the north-west, is a rectory, the tythes of which have been commuted at £907, in addition to which there is a glebe valued at £90, patron and incumbent, the Rev. T. Matthews. The name is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, but in the Pipe Roll it is described as the royal manor, Binterworda. In the reign of Charles I. the manor belonged to George Withers, the poet, who was born here in 1617. At the commencement of the Civil War, he sold his estate to raise a troop of horse, in the service of the Parliament, but being defeated and made prisoner, he was sentenced to death, and would have been executed but for the noble

intercession of Sir John Denham, who begged his life of the King, that there might be a worse poet in England than himself.

Shalden, the adjoining parish to the north, is a rectory, in the patronage of the Crown, the tythes of which have been commuted at £330, with a glebe of the annual value of £17. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as Seldune, and as containing two ploughlands, but as possessing neither a church nor mill.

Lasham, the next parish, was in the time of William the Conqueror included in some one of the many manors held by the powerful Hugh de Port, in the north of Hampshire. It is also a rectory, patron G. P. Jervoise, esq. of Herriard House, of the gross annual value of £420.

SKETCH X.

ODIHAM AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population
Odiham	7750	12866	2187
Grey-well	859	1073	280
Upton Grey	2310	1998	504
Weston Patric	1540	1025	185
South Warnborough	2670	2516	371
Long Sutton	2030	1907	321
Crondall	9540	7932	2199
Dogmersfield	1650	1632	305
Winchfield	1760	3630	317

THERE are but few places in Hampshire that occupy a more delightful site and present a more pleasing appearance than the little town of *Odiham*, situated at a distance of seven miles east of Basingstoke and two miles south of the Winchfield Station of the London and South-western Railway. It was a hunting seat of our Saxon monarchs, the surrounding country being a dense wood, which is evident not only from remains of the ancient forest, but from the fact that parish churches in this neighbourhood stand on rising ground, thereby rendered more prominent objects in the tangled covert, as is the case with those in the New Forest, but the reverse of those whose surrounding lands came early under the operations of the plough. The word Odiham is a corruption of Woody-ham, of which ham signifies a town or collection of houses. In times past it was a large and more important place than it is at present, and many vestiges of its ancient greatness still remain, amongst which may be adduced the name of other places in its vicinity, evidently derived from their relative situation to Odiham, as North and South Warnborough, Weston Patric and Long Sutton or South-town. In the Domesday Book the manor is men-

tioned as assessed at 78½ hides, and as containing 56 ploughlands, of which fifteen were held by the King, who had here an establishment of fifty servants, whilst the remainder was occupied by 137 villagers, and 60 borderers; eight mills, four churches, and 21 acres of meadow, and woods which furnished 160 hogs. The population, according to the calculation supposing that each villager and borderer's family consisted of five persons, would amount to 1035. Part of the present parish, namely, the tything of North Warnborough, belonged to the Bishops of Winchester, but it passed into the hands of the crown at a very early date. Here stood a stately castle, which became celebrated for the siege it endured. At the period, when John, who had forfeited the affections of his people, and by his perfidy and tyranny so enraged his barons, that they had invited to England Louis, the son of Philip Augustus, to take possession of the throne, and London had thrown open its gates and welcomed him as its King and deliverer; and whilst over the walls of every castle in Hampshire and in the South of England from Dover to Gloucester, floated the *fleur de lis* of France—on those of Odiham were displayed the royal leopards or lions of England. For fifteen days, the little garrison, amounting to no more than three officers and ten men, defied the whole power of the French Prince and his English allies then marshalled against them; but finding it hopeless to contend against such odds, and there being no chance of relief, they capitulated, on condition that they should be allowed to retain their freedom, their houses, and their arms. In the reign of Edward I. this castle, with the town, park, and hundred of Odiham, were granted to Queen Margaret, the King's second wife, as part of her dower; and in the reign of Henry VI. it was granted to another Queen, as a portion of her dower, namely, to the celebrated Margaret of Anjou, who so bravely upheld the sinking fortunes of her weak, but pious spouse; and, after being several times granted by succeeding monarchs to their favourites or relations, was

by James I. bestowed on Lord Zouch, from whose family it passed, by purchase, into that of Paulet St. John, the great-grandfather of the present Sir Henry Mildmay. In the reign of Edward III. the castle was used as a royal prison, and here David II. King of Scotland, who was taken captive by Sir John Coupland, at the battle of Neville's Cross, near Durham, in 1346, was confined for eleven years, when his subjects obtained his release by paying 100,000 marks, as the price of his ransom, and giving hostages for his future conduct. Of this castle nothing now remains but the keep, an octagonal building; there are traces of some ditches, but no walls or other remains sufficient to point out its ancient shape and extent. In addition to the castle, there was a royal palace at Odiham, in which King John resided prior to his signing Magna Charta at Runnymede, and of which Queen Elizabeth was a frequent occupant, but since that time the greater part has been pulled down; a farm house, the remains of an ancient building, is called the place, or palace.

The church, an ancient and spacious edifice, exhibits various specimens of architecture, and consists of a nave and aisles, surmounted by a square tower. The living is a vicarage, with the chapelry Grey-well annexed, of the annual value of £536, in the patronage of the Chancellor of the cathedral church of Salisbury, the appropriator of the great tythes, which are let on lease for lives. The Grammar school, founded in the reign of William III, under the will of R. May, esq. and further endowed by J. Zouch, was intended for the education and apprenticing 25 boys of the parish, and has an income of £78. At the time of the investigation of the Charities, they were taught reading, writing, grammar and arithmetic, and occasionally apprenticed, in addition to which the master takes boarders for classical education. In the middle of the last century, the school was in high repute as a preparatory establishment to that of Winchester College, and amongst its scholars were two prelates, equally eminent for their learning and piety—

Huntingford, Bishop of Hereford, and Burgess, Bishop of Salisbury, the last of whom was a native of the town. Another celebrated character may here be mentioned as connected by birth with Odiham, namely, William Lilly, the Astrologer and grammarian. He was born in 1446, educated at Magdalene College, Oxford, from thence proceeded to Jerusalem, Rhodes, and for a time settled at Rome. In 1509 he returned to England, and shortly afterwards was appointed the first master of St. Paul's Cathedral. Lilly was intimate with Erasmus, who bore testimony of his skill in languages and grammatical science, as also with the most distinguished scholars of his day. He published several valuable works in the Latin tongue, but his Latin grammar was the most successful, and is the standard of nearly the whole of the Latin grammars now in use. Near the church is an Alms house, founded and endowed by Sir Edward More in 1623, with property producing about £80 per annum, for eight widows or widowers, and there are apartments for two other persons, with stipends annually from other benefactions.

Odiham was formerly a free borough, belonging to the Bishop of Winchester, and returned members to Parliament from the 25th of Edward I. to the 4th of Edward II. from which duty it was relieved in compliance with the petition of the inhabitants. Constables are appointed annually at the Court Leet, held by the steward of Lady Mildmay. From the period of the Norman Conquest, and probably from that of Alfred the Great, Odiham has given its name to one of the hundreds of the county, as it does now to one of its divisions, comprising nearly the whole of the parishes noticed in this and the preceding Sketch. It has a market on Tuesday, and fairs on the Saturday preceding Midlent Sunday, and July 31st, for horses and cattle. It was at Odiham that the first agricultural society in this county was established in 1783, of which Lord Rivers of Stratfield Saye was the president. Its objects were such as are now the basis of kindred insti-

tutions, the promotion of the knowledge of agriculture by premiums on successful experiments, to promote a spirit of industry and sobriety among labourers, and to extend the benefits of education to their children.

Grey-well, by corruption Grewall, is the adjoining parish to the east, and is so called in contradistinction to the neighbouring parish of *Upton Grey*, the village of which is situated on a hill. The church is a small but ancient structure, probably of the period of Henry III. The Basingstoke canal passes for three quarters of a mile under Grey-well hill, and at one part is 140 feet below the surface.

Upton Grey, to the south, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as Uptone, but did not at that period possess either church or mill. The parish comprises the tything of Hoddington, and the church has separate accommodation for the inhabitants of the two places. The living is a perpetual curacy in the patronage of the Provost and Fellows of Queen's College, Oxford, who are the impropriators of the tythes, commuted at £490. Hoddington House, the seat of W. Lutley Sclater, esq. erected about a century ago by John Limbrey, esq. a former proprietor, is a substantial but plain brick building, but the pleasure-grounds, from their elevated situation, command several pleasing and picturesque views. The manor of Hoddington is mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to the see of Winchester. Subsequently it formed part of the possessions of the abbot and monks of Beaulieu, who had a cell on the site of the present mansion, called Edington. A vestige of the connexion between this distant manor and Beaulieu Abbey till lately existed, it being in Beaulieu Liberty, whilst all the surrounding parishes are included in the hundred of Bermonspit, to which it is now transferred.

Weston Patrie, the next parish to the south, is also mentioned in the Domesday Book, and, like the last mentioned, without church or mill. It is a perpetual curacy in the patronage of the chancellor of the cathedral church of Salisbury, and of the annual value of £48.

Turning to the east we have the parish of *South Warnborough*, the ancient name was Subberic, or South Borough; but the present is a corruption from Warmborough, conferred on it in consequence of its favoured locality, which is sheltered from the north and east winds by hills, which is confirmed by the entries in the ancient parish registers. The church is an ancient edifice, having a fine Norman entrance, and contains in the chancel a curious monument to Sir Thomas White, a former proprietor of Warnborough House. Here it is said of his son, that Queen Elizabeth, soon after her accession, rode one morning on horseback to visit him, and after being entertained at breakfast, unexpectedly knighted him in his saloon. This knight has frequently been confounded with Sir Thomas White, the founder of St. John's College, Oxford, and what has tended to perpetuate the mistake is, that both the knight of South Warnborough and the distinguished merchant died in the same year, 1566. The living is a rectory, the tythes of which have been commuted at £720, in addition to which there is a glebe, worth £45, in the patronage of the President and Fellows of St. John's College, on whom it was conferred by E. Sandys, esq. at the instigation of his friend Archbishop Laud.

Proceeding westward we have next the parish of *Long Sutton*, a perpetual curacy, and like all others in the patronage of the richly endowed Hospital of St. Cross, is but scantily provided for, the value being, in the present instance, no more than £43.

Further westward we have the extensive parish of *Crondall*, mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to the see of Winchester, as consisting of no less than forty hides, of which forty-five villagers and eleven borderers occupied eleven ploughlands, and contained a church worth 20. Connected with this manor were smaller manors, one of which was the present neighbouring parish of Farnborough. In the reign of Henry VI. Cardinal Beaufort, who then filled the see of Winchester, reduced the rectory of this parish to a

vicarage, granting the advowson of the living and the great tythes to the Hospital of St. Cross, to which he was a great benefactor, and accounted its second founder. On the accession of Edward IV. a great portion of the cardinal's grants to the hospital were taken from it, on the ground that his eminence had no right to alienate the property of the crown, and were conferred on the adherents of the "White Rose." The grant of the great tythes of Crondall escaped confiscation, as they had always belonged to the see of Winchester, and they are still held by the hospital, and let on a lease for lives to the Marquis of Winchester. The church is of Norman foundation, the nave being of that style with transition mouldings, but the chancel is of an Early English character, ornamented with zigzag ornaments, and contains two ancient monumental brasses. Within the last few years a district chapel has been erected by subscription, and endowed with £1,000, raised by subscription, and £40 a year charged on the vicarial tythes. Here is an endowed school founded by H. Maxwell, esq. partly endowed from a fund benevolently left by Mrs. Oliver his housekeeper, for the religious and useful instruction, according to the tenets of the Church of England, of the children of poor parents inhabitants of the parish, with an annual income amounting to £37. 3s. and in which eighty boys are taught on Bell's system.

About a mile from the church a few years since, the remains of a Roman villa and a quantity of interesting specimens of Mosaic pavement were laid bare by the plough, which unfortunately have been destroyed, and the last fragments of it removed. In the year 1828, about one hundred gold coins were found by Mr. Lefroy of Ewshott House on the heath, which were of the impress of the kings of France of the Merovingian family, of the 5th and 6th centuries: many of them being coins not previously known to the numismatics of this country. Crondall is famous for its growth of hops, which are second only to those grown in the ad-

joining parish of Farnham. In the year 1820, some of the ground realized at a public sale, £600 per acre. Till a recent period, a large portion of the parish was not enclosed.

Dogmersfield, the adjoining parish to the north, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as Ormersfelt, as being held by Hugo with the Great Beard, and as containing a church and a mill. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of Lady Mildmay, the tythes of which have been commuted at £394, in addition to which there is a glebe valued at £12. The church, situated in Dogmersfield Park, is a modern structure, having been erected at the close of the last century. Dogmersfield House, the seat of Lady Mildmay, is delightfully situated in an extensive park, exhibiting a great variety of surface, and containing some excellent timber. The mansion being situated on an eminence, commands pleasant and distant views of the country to the north and east. The original appearance of the house was a red brick building with stone quoins and dressings, which have since been stuccoed in imitation of stone. The principle entrance is to the north by a corridor, which conducts to the inner hall, the walls of which are hung with family paintings, and a whole length one of Prince Rupert, by Sir Peter Lely. The drawing-room, formerly the entrance hall, thirty-four by twenty-four, and which is a lofty and elegant apartment, is decorated with some excellent paintings of the Italian, Venetian and Flemish schools, including some of the productions of Rembrandt, Claude Lorraine, Titian, Rubens, Teniers, Holbein, Vandyke, &c. The dining-room, thirty-eight feet by twenty-one is wainscotted; on a chimney-piece of statuary marble, embellished with columns, stands a marble bust of Pitt, by Nollekins. In this room there are several full length portraits from the collection of King Charles I. presented by that monarch to an ancestor of Lady Mildmay—they are Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden; King James the First, by Rubens; Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, by C. Jansen; and Sir

Horace Vere, Lord Tilbury. The library, thirty-four by seventeen, contains a very large collection of rare and valuable books, and an exquisitely sculptured marble vase, brought from Italy. The manor of Dogmersfield, anciently belonged to the see of Canterbury, and was an occasional residence of the primates of all England; and here one of them, Reginald Fitz-Jocelyn, died in 1191. At the Reformation this was another slice of church plunder, obtained by Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, whose name has been so frequently mentioned in connexion with this subject in the course of these sketches. After passing through several families, the Dogmersfield estate became the property of Ellis Mewe, esq. who afterwards assumed the name of St. John. His son, Paulet St. John, made considerable additions to the estate by the purchase of the lordship and manor of Odiham. His grandson Sir Henry Paulet St. John, assumed the name of Mildmay on his marriage with the eldest daughter of Carew Mildmay, esq. of Shawford House, near Winchester, in 1790. Sir Henry Mildmay died in 1808.

Winchfield to the north comes next, and completes the circuit round Odiham. In the reign of William the Conqueror the manor was held by the abbey of Chertsey, but it did not at that time possess a church or mill. The present church must have been erected soon after that period, and is well worthy of the attention of the antiquarian. It is a cruciform structure, though the south transept is nothing more than a porch. At the west end, there is a noble Norman tower, twenty-five feet square at its base, but the upper part is modern, and apparently added in consequence of that portion of the original work having fallen down. The western door, perhaps unequalled in the county, is of a purely Norman character, deeply recessed and richly ornamented. On the northern side there is an exquisite specimen of the Early English style exhibited in the remains of an ancient doorway, and at the eastern end there is a triple lancet window. The pulpit bears the

date of 1634, but the font is evidently of the thirteenth century. The living is a rectory, in the gift of the Rev. H. E. St. John, of the annual value of £250. Winchfield House, the seat of George Barnbrige, esq. formerly belonged to the Ridyerds, one of the oldest families in England, several of whom represented this county in Parliament, and who were the possessors of this property from a century previous to the Norman Conquest till the year 1760.

SKETCH XI.

THE NORTH WESTERN EXTREMITY.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Aldershott - - -	4070	2016	685
Farnborough - - -	2370	2874	356
Yately - - -	10270	8941	1997
Eversley - - -	5400	3039	770
Heckfield, with	5697	4086	1075
Mattingley - }		3268	578
Stratfield Saye - - -	3090	1253	243
Stratfield Turgis - - -	900	1546	403
Silchester - - -	1850	1292	817
Tadley - - -	1990	1339	484
Pamber - - -	2450	2386	428
Bramley - - -	2350	2430	640
Sherfield - - -	2200	1881	416
Rotherwick - - -	1940	1507	351
Hartley Westpall - - -	1450	1059	270
Hartley Wintney - - -	2280	3834	1370
Elvetham - - -	2980	3208	552

THE parish of *Aldershott*, situated to the north-east of Crondall, is bounded by the county of Surrey on the south and east. One half of the area is waste, producing nothing better than furze, whilst its population is scattered amongst a number of small hamlets. The church contains an ancient and curious monument to the Tichbourne's, who formerly had a seat in this parish, since converted into a farm house. The living is a perpetual curacy, of the annual value of £64, in private patronage, but the Master of the Hospital of St. Cross is the impropiator of the tythes. The Blackwater river, a tributary stream of the Kennet, which divides this county from Surrey on the east, and from Berkshire on the north, takes its rise in this parish.

Farnborough, the adjoining parish to the north, also consists in a great measure of wild heaths. The living is a rectory in the gift of John Clayton, esq. the tythes of which have been commuted at £152, in addition to which there is a glebe of thirty acres, and an allotment of a hundred and thirty acres, the latter, under an Act for enclosure passed in 1812.

The extensive parish of *Yately* is situated at the north-eastern extremity of Hampshire, having the county of Berks on the north and Surrey on the east. The living is a perpetual curacy, of the annual value of £72, in the patronage of the master of the hospital of St. Cross, who is the impropriator of the tythes. A district church was, in 1839, erected and endowed in the hamlet of Hawley. Here is an endowed school for teaching poor children reading and needle-work, with an income of £8. 5s. founded under the will of M. Baker, in 1704.

The adjoining parish on the Berkshire border is *Eversley*, of which 2167 acres out of the 2939, are commons or waste. Its principal feature is the noble mansion and park of Bramshill, the residence of Sir John Cope. The house commands a noble prospect, and although never completed according to the original design, is a noble and commanding pile. It was erected by Lord Zouch in the reign of James I. and was intended for the residence of Henry, the then Prince of Wales; his premature death was the cause that the original design was not completed, which otherwise would have been one of the most splendid and striking edifices in the kingdom. The park of Bramshill derives some notoriety as being the place in which Abbott, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the early part of the reign of Charles I. shot by accident and killed Thomas Hawkins, a game-keeper, for which he was suspended from his archiepiscopal duties. This accident threw him into a deep melancholy; he ever afterwards kept a monthly fast on Tuesday, the day on which this fatal mischance happened, and settled an annuity of £20 upon the

widow. Eversley and Bramshill are both mentioned in the Domesday Book as distinct manors; the former was held by the abbey of Westminster, and contained four hides of land and a mill, and was worth £4; and the latter two hides, being worth no more than twenty-five pence.

Further westward we have the parish of *Heckfield*, the greater portion of which also consists of wastes and commons. Heckfield Place, the seat of the Rt. Hon. C. S. Lefevre, the present Speaker of the House of Commons, is a handsome mansion, seated in a small park abounding with fine timber, and containing several highly ornamented sheets of water. The parish church, an ancient edifice, to which the aisles were added so long ago as 1500, has a fine massive tower, and contains several curious monumental brasses and other ancient memorials. The living is a vicarage, with the chapelry of Mattingly attached, of the annual value of £407. in the patronage of the Warden and Fellows of New College, Oxford, the appropriators of the great tythes, commuted at £698.

The next parish to the west, *Stratfield Saye*, contains the mansion and park of the present Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, his Grace the Duke of Wellington. We have here three adjoining parishes called Stratfield, *Stratfield Saye* and *Stratfield Turgis* in Hampshire, and *Stratfield Mortimer* in Berkshire. Stratfield means the field of the road or way; the ancient Roman road from Silchester to London crossing these parishes. The adjunct to the parish now under notice is derived from its belonging at one period to a family of the name of Saye, from whom it passed by marriage to Sir Nicholas Dabridgecourt, high sheriff of Hampshire, in the reign of Richard II. In the middle of the 17th century the estate was purchased by Sir William Pitt, Comptroller of the Household, and in whose family it remained till 1814, when it was purchased of Lord Rivers by Parliament, and presented to his Grace the Duke of Wellington, who holds it of the Crown on a similar condition

as does the Duke of Marlborough hold Blenheim, viz. that of presenting on every succeeding anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, to the sovereign, a flag bearing the royal arms. The mansion of his Grace presents nothing worthy of notice; it is convenient rather than showy, but well adapted to the simple habits of its noble owner. The park is spacious, and contains within its limits the parish church. Through it

“ The Loddon slow, with silver alders crown'd,”

rolls its sluggish stream, and forms several delightful sheets of water. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of the Duke. A Benedictine priory was founded in this parish in 1170, by Nicholas de Stotville, as a cell to the abbey of Vallemont in Normandy, which, at the suppression of the aliens' priories, was granted to Eton college. Here is an endowed school, founded by the Pitt family, of which the governors are, the lord of the manor of Stratfield Saye, and the rectors of Stratfield Saye and Turgis, for the education of sixteen poor children, with an income of £21.6s. derived from rents; at the time of the investigation of charities, the number of objects had been increased to thirty-six. Stratfield is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being held with Silchester by Ralph de Mortimer, (the favourite officer of William the Conqueror,) who in his day was the great captain, as is now the Duke of Wellington.

Stratfield Turgis is a much smaller parish to the south-east, and forms part of the demesne of the Duke of Wellington, who has the patronage of the rectory, which is of the annual value of £820.

We next arrive at the parish of *Silchester*, which, though occupying the northern part of the county, belongs to the hundred of Portsdown, from the main portion of which it is removed by a distance of more than forty miles. Within this parish is situated the ruins of *Caer Segont*, or the city of the *Segontiaci* of the Britons, and the *Vindonum* or *Calleva* of the Romans, which are nearly a mile and a half in circumference.

The walls on the south side are the most perfect, being in some places nearly twenty-feet high. Of the British city little can be said, though it is supposed that the walls were constructed by that people, but enlarged and improved by the Romans, under whom the city became one of the most important places in the south of the island. During the contests between the defending Britons and invading Saxons, Silchester fell into the hands of the latter, who massacred the whole of the inhabitants, and levelled the walls to the ground. The city was never rebuilt, and at the present time we find no other buildings within its boundaries than a farmhouse and its appurtenances, and a diminutive but ancient parish church; the remainder being divided into seven fields, the surface of which in dry weather points out plainly the directions of the ancient streets. It is not known whether the city was fortified previous to its falling into the hands of the Romans, but there are reasons to believe that it was so, from the facts that the form of the walls is irregular, and that they are formed of coarser materials than was customary for them to use. The streets ran in parallel lines across the area, forming chequers as at Salisbury, and the four principal ones communicated with the entrances which were at the north, east, south, and west. At the junction of the four principal streets, at the centre of the city, there is supposed to have stood a pagan temple, and probably afterwards a christian church. On the south there is a sally-port, called Onion's hole, which title it has borne for centuries, for Camden in his visit to Silchester, says "They frequently dig up British tiles and great plenty of Roman coins, which they call Onion pennies, from one Onion, whom they foolishly fancy to have been a giant and an inhabitant of this city."—Various are the traditions connected with the place, among which it is said that "on the ground whereon this city was built the Roman emperor Constantius sowed three grains of corn, that no person inhabiting there might ever be poor." The walls, or the portions of

them yet remaining, stand on a high bank covered with aged oak, ash, and a luxuriant underwood; the fosse is deep and wide, and through a portion of it there runs a small rivulet, which rises within the limits of the ancient city. Here, as may be supposed, great numbers of Roman antiquities have been discovered. Silchester is considered by Mr. Rickman to have been the third of the British towns in extent; and that the Romanized inhabitants of it were distinguished by their cultivated taste is testified by the amphitheatre outside of the wall, one of the few undisputed relics of the kind in Britain. This is situated without the walls to the north-east and is similar to that of Dorchester, though not so large. The seats are ranged in five rows, one above the other, with a slope between each measuring about six feet. The bank is composed of clay and gravel, and is now covered with trees, whilst the area or stage is in a great measure under water. The church is an ancient structure, chiefly in the Norman style, but with later additions; and the living a rectory in the patronage of the Duke of Wellington, the tythe of which has been commuted at £410, with a glebe of the annual value of £50.

Tadley, the adjoining parish to the south, is a chapelry annexed to the distant vicarage of Overton, and contains nothing worthy of notice.

In the same direction is *Pamber*, returned as a perpetual curacy, though without a church, in the patronage of the provost and fellows of Queen's College, Oxford, who are the impropiators of the tythes, commuted at £270. The only thing here remarkable is, that the proceedings of the manorial courts are recorded on a piece of wood furnished by the steward of Queen's College.

The parish to the east is *Bramley*, signifying a woody pasture, which well agrees with its notice in the Domesday Book as the manor is there stated to contain woods which furnished eighty hogs. Here were also eight ploughlands, on which fourteen villagers and fourteen

borderers employed eleven ploughs, a church and two mills which paid 20s. the whole being worth £9, but paid a rent of £10. The living is a vicarage in the patronage of the Provost and Fellows of Queen's College, Oxford, the impropiators of the great tythes, which have been commuted at £510, and those of the vicar at £154.

Sherfield, or the Shire-field, on the Loddon, comes next in the same direction. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging, with Bramley, to Hugh de Port, and as containing a mill; but in the reign of Edward I. the manor was held by John de Warbledon of the king in capite, by grand sergentry, viz.—by service of being marshal to the——(lewd women), and dismembering condemned malefactors, and measuring gallons and bushels in the king's household. The living is a rectory, patron and incumbent the Rev. W. Eyre, the tythes of which have been commuted at £674, with a glebe of the value of £42. A school was here established by James Christmas, esq. in 1735, who endowed it with an annual rent of £25, at which all the children who apply are taught to read and write.

Hartley Westpall, the adjoining parish to the east is a rectory in the patronage of the dean and canons of Windsor, the tythes of which have been commuted at £420. The manor is mentioned in the Domesday Book when it formed part of the forest which covered the greater portion of this part of the county.

Rotherwick to the south derives its name from its situation, the term wick being usually applied, according to Camden, to places seated on the turn of a river, as is the case here. The church is an ancient structure, and contains some curious monuments to the Tilney family of Tilney Hall, a noble mansion in the parish, which was pulled down a few years since. The living is a perpetual curacy, of the annual value of £50, in the patronage of the Chancellor of the cathedral church of Salisbury, the appropriator of the tythes which are held by a lease of lives by the present Lord Mornington, the

proprietor of the Tilney estates by his marriage with Miss Tilney Long. An endowed school was founded in 1716, under the will of F. Tilney, esq. which has an endowment of an annual rent of the value of £10, which is increased by voluntary subscriptions. The same individual was for several years one of the Representatives of the city of Winchester, on which he settled a rent charge of £25, to arise out of a farm called Mabley, in the parishes of Natley Scures, to be paid every fifth year, and to be applied by way of loan, for seven years, without interest, to honest and deserving tradesmen of the city, to which purpose it is still applied.

Hartley Wintney contains a larger population than either of the preceding parishes, except Yatley, as it includes the hamlets of Hartley Row and Hertford Bridge, situated on the high road from London to the West of England. These places have suffered greatly, as previously, coaches to or from the metropolis passed almost hourly through them, in addition to which there were here a number of posting houses in high repute. Hertford Bridge takes its name from a bridge erected by one of the Earls of Hertford, formerly the possessors of the neighbouring mansion at Elvetham. Within the parish there was formerly a Cistercian abbey founded in the reign of William the Conqueror. At its dissolution its community consisted of an abbess and seventeen nuns, and its revenues amounted to £59, which with its site were granted to Richard Hill, Serjeant of the King's Cellar. The parish church, situated on a rising ground about half a mile to the south of Hartley Row, is a picturesque object from its surrounding meadows. It is a cruciform structure, with an embattled tower to the west, surmounted by four turrets. The body of the church has been modernized, but retains its ancient pointed windows, which are of different ages and characters. The living is a vicarage, of the annual value of £108, in the patronage of Lady Mildmay proprietress of the great tythes.

Directing our footsteps to the south-east we find ourselves at *Elvetham*. At the time of William the

Conqueror this parish formed part of the possessions of the abbey of Chertsey, Surrey, which at the Reformation passed into the family of the Seymours, who among the courtiers of the tyrant Henry and the infant Edward, obtained more than an average share of the spoils of the church. The manor, and, the advowson of the rectory, which is of the annual value of £300, is now the property of Lord Calthorpe. The only historical event connected with Elvetham is the entertainment of Queen Elizabeth by the Earl of Hertford, in the year 1591, and which offers a singular contrast to the entertainment of her present most gracious Majesty by the Duke of Wellington during the past year. In the one instance there was ridiculous pomp and childish buffoonery, in the other, elegant simplicity; and the contrast is the more striking that Queen Elizabeth was, at the time of her visit to Elvetham, on the worse side of sixty, and yet appears to have been delighted with all the gewgaw nonsense which was then exhibited.

In expectation of the royal visit, workmen were employed in enlarging the house and in forming a lake. On the grounds, a room of state for the nobles was erected, at the extremity of which there was a withdrawing room for her Majesty; the outside walls were covered with bushes and clusters of ripe hazel nuts, and the inside with arras, and the roof ornamented with ivy. Near the house a large pond was dug, in which there were three islands, the first of which was the ship isle, 100 feet in length by 40 feet in breadth; the second was the fort isle, 20 feet every way, on which was erected a miniature fortress; and the third was the snail isle and mountain, 40 feet broad at bottom, but rising to a great height, the sides of which were covered by four circles of green prevet hedges. In the water there were divers boats for the musicians and the actors in the scenes which were to follow, more especially a pinnacle fully furnished, with yards, sails, cables, anchors, &c. Her Majesty was met at Hartford Bridge by the noble Earl, whose cavalcade consisted of three hundred gentlemen, nearly the whole of whom wore a gold chain about his

neck, and a hat surmounted by a yellow feather. In royal state her Majesty, escorted by her noble guest, set out for Elvetham house. No sooner had her Majesty entered the park than her ears were saluted by a Latin oration, in heroic verse, composed for the occasion, and delivered by the author, who was clad in green to signify the joy of his thoughts at her Majesty's arrival, a laurel garland on his head to express that Apollo was the patron of his studies, and an olive branch in his hand to express what continued peace and plenty he wished to crown her Majesty's reign; and lastly he was booted to show he was not a low loose creeping prophet, as poets are interpreted by some idle or envious ignorants. Whilst our poet was engaged with the delivery of his oration, six virgins behind him were removing six blocks of wood out of her Majesty's way, supposed to have been placed there by the Goddess Envy, who bears an especial malice against virtue and the glory of true majesty. Three of the virgins represented the three graces and the others the three hours. They were all attired in gowns of tafitta sarcenet of divers colours, with flowery garlands on their heads, and baskets containing sweet herbs and flowers on their arms. When the poet had ceased speaking and had presented his scroll to her Majesty, the cortege proceeded towards the house, the six damsels leading the way, strewing their flowers and sweet herbs, and singing a song in six parts, the burden of which was—

Oh beauteous Queen of second Troy,
Accept of our unfeigned joy.

Upon her Majesty's arrival at the house, there was a discharge of fireworks from the pond islands, and in the evening a concert from the royal apartments. The morning of the next day was wet, consequently the prepared amusements were postponed till the afternoon. After dinner the Earl caused a large canopy of state to be placed at the pond's head for her Majesty to sit under and view the performances by land and water, then about to be exhibited. At the further extremity of the pond there was a large body of men disguised as sea

monsters, who waded breast high or swam about the pond till they came near the spot where the Queen was seated. Then came Nereus, the prophet of the sea, attended by six Tritons, with grizzly heads and beards of divers colours and fashions, sounding their trumpets; next came Neptune and Oceanus leading the pinnacle, in which were seated three virgins, who played Scotch jigs, and also the sea nymph Nerea, the old supposed love of Sylvanus the god of the wood. After the pinnacle there were two other boats drawn by other sea monsters. The rest of the train followed breast high in water, each one armed with a huge wooden squirt. The pinnacle contained two jewels, one of which was presented to her Majesty by Nereus, and the other by Nerea, both of whom delivered an address replete with fulsome adulation. Then came from the park Sylvanus, with numerous attendants attired as fawns and saytrs, with his body enveloped in kid skins, and the hair on his head hooded with a goat's skin, with two horns attached; he bore an olive branch in his right hand, and also delivered a congratulatory address to her Majesty, at the conclusion of which he ventured to pay his court to the sea nymph Nerea, which gave such offence to the watery tribe that they undertook to cool the amorous deity by plunging him into the deep; this occasioned a disrapture between the denizens of the woods and the water, the one making use of darts and the others of their wooden squirts: after a fierce contest the combatants parted, the one party retreating to the woods and the other withdrawing to the further extremity of the pond. In the evening of the third day there was a grand display of fireworks, in which the snail mount or isle was made to resemble an animal, from which there was an incessant issue of fire: this was followed by a splendid banquet, consisting of not less than a thousand dishes, amongst which were her Majesty's arms as well as those of many of the nobility, castles, forts, ordnance, soldiers of all sorts, quadrupeds, birds, fishes, reptiles, mermaids, &c. served up in sugar work. The fourth morning was ushered in by music,

and her Majesty had no sooner made her appearance in the garden than she was surrounded by females, intended to represent the Fairy Queen and her attendants, who presented to her a garland representing an imperial crown, and danced round about the aged Majesty of England singing—

“ Eliza is the fairest queen
That ever trod upon this green ;
Eliza's eyes are blessed stars,
Inducing peace, subduing wars ;
Eliza's hand is chrystal bright,
Her words are balm, her looks are light ;
Eliza's breast is that fair hill
Where Nature dwells and sacred skill.
Oh ! blessed be each day and hour,
Where sweet Eliza builds her bower.”

Her Majesty was so delighted with the above that she requested its repetition, after which she departed with her train from Elvetham. As she progressed through the park she passed Neptune and Oceanus, Nereus and Nerea, Sylvanus and the Fairy Queen, and all the attendant tritons, mermaids, fawns, satyrs, and other inhabitants of the deep and of the woods, wringing their hands, tearing their hair, and bemoaning the departure of her Majesty, who was pleased to express her entire satisfaction with her entertainment and to promise the Earl her especial favour.

As another specimen of the gross adulation so generally adopted in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries by persons addressing their superiors in rank or wealth, and which was not less acceptable to “ Good Queen Bess,” than to her successor, the “ Northern Solomon,” may be added the words of a song for six voices, sung at the departure of her Majesty :—

Oh ! come again, fair nature's treasure !
Whose looks yield joys exceeding measure,
Oh ! come again, Heaven's chief delight !
Thine absence makes eternal night.
Oh ! come again, world's star-bright eye !
Whose presence doth adorn the sky.
Oh ! come again, sweet beauteous sun !
When thou art gone our joys are done.

SKETCH XII.

BASINGSTOKE AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population
Basingstoke	3970	14426	4066
Old Basing	4970	8505	1140
Winslade	1210	1413	169
Tunworth	1190	773	124
Herriard	3050	2236	427
Ellisfield	2360	1542	248
Nutley	1210	854	178
Dummer	2100	2416	412
Farleigh Wallop	1820	1266	94
Cliddesden	2150	1435	306
Church Oakley	1640	1892	335
Worting	1070	2343	148
Wootton St. Lawrence	4170	5346	845
Sherborne St. John's	3700	2663	718
Sherborne Monks	2430	2935	525
Newnham	1170	2882	337
Nately Scures	1120	1998	278
Upper Nately	980	988	137
Maplederwell	730	842	214
Eastrop	440	711	94

THE municipal borough, capital market, and till lately lively, town of *Basingstoke* is of considerable antiquity. That it was a flourishing place during the reigns of our Saxon monarchs appears from the mention which is made of it in the *Doomsday Book*, which states that it was, and always had been, a royal manor, that it never paid taxes or was distributed into hides, and had a market worth 30s. and that the manor contained twenty ploughlands, three mills, and twenty acres of meadow. At that time the Church of Mount St. Michael held the church, with one hide of land, and the tythe of the manor, worth £5. There is no historical event connected with Basingstoke, but there is every reason to believe

that it always has ranked high among the towns of Hampshire. From its situation, at the junction of several roads from the south and west of England to the metropolis, and in the centre of a richly agricultural district, it commanded a considerable trade, which was increased by the formation of the canal to the river Wey, thus opening a water carriage to London. At one period the town possessed an extensive share in the woollen manufacture, particularly in druggets and shalloons, but that trade has long passed away from this neighbourhood, whilst it is one of those many places which have felt the ill effects of our new mode of travelling, and the consequence of which has been that certain properties here are not worth one quarter of the sum they were twelve years ago.

The church is a spacious and handsome structure, consisting of a nave, aisles, and chancel, all of a perpendicular character, with a low embattled tower; and was erected, it is said, under the auspices of Bishop Fox, in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII. The south side of the church is of stone, and that of the north of alternate squares of stone and flint. It contains a parochial library, founded by a former vicar, the Rev. Sir George Wheeler, the celebrated Eastern traveller, at the commencement of the last century, which has been increased by subsequent benefactors. The living is a vicarage, with that of Old Basing and the chapelry of Upper Nately annexed, of the gross annual value of £915, in the patronage of the President and Fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford. As above stated, the church belonged to the church of St. Michael's Mount in Normandy in the time of William the Conqueror; but in the reign of Henry III. Peter de Rupibus, then Bishop of Winchester, granted the advowson to the Prior of Selbourn in this county, and upon its dissolution in the reign of Henry VI. this advowson with the impropriation of the great tythes of Basingstoke and Basing were with the other possessions of the priory, transferred by Bishop Waynflete to his newly-erected college at Oxford. The impropriate

tythes of this parish has been commuted at a rent-charge of £783, and the vicarical tythes at that of £494. Previous to the Reformation there stood near to the church an establishment, entitled, "An Hospital for the maintenance of the ministers of the Altar of Christ," founded in 1261, by Henry III. at the desire of Walter de Merton, Bishop of Rochester, native of the town, and founder of Merton's College, Oxford. It was endowed for the support of clerks, particularly of Merton College, who were become infirm and incapable of performing the ecclesiastical functions. No remains of the building at present exist, but the site is the property of Merton College, who probably obtained the endowment at the suppression of the hospital.

To the north of the town, and close to the present Railway Station there are some singular remains, known generally as the Holy Ghost Chapel, but locally as Chapel Litton. Tradition asserts that the site was occupied by a church as far back as the Saxon times, but the architecture of that yet standing is of that of the reign of Edward IV. with additions made by the first Lord Sandys, in the early part of that of Henry VIII. An earlier period however must be assigned to the original foundation, as in 1817, an ancient tomb surmounted by an effigy of a Knight Templar, the order of which was abolished in 1312, was discovered in the adjoining ground. What was the nature of the establishment does not appear, otherwise than that Lord Sandys granted an estate to maintain a priest to perform divine offices in the chapel, and to instruct youth in literature. Falling within the Act for the Suppression of Chantries and Free Chapels, it was dissolved in the reign of Edward VI. when its possessions were transferred to the crown. In the following reign a brotherhood was again established, and the former possessions re-granted for the maintenance of a priest for the celebration of divine service, and for the education of the young men and boys of Basingstoke. At the overthrow of the monarchy, now two centuries ago, the *godly* Long Parliament sequestered the revenues and shut up the school, fol-

lowing the example of their soldiers, who had rend red the chapel a shapeless mass of ruins, and had wilfully destroyed a temple erected to the honour and glory of God, and cast down one of the most elegant designs which could enrich a landscape. At the Restoration, the state was restored and the school re-opened through the exertions of Bishop Morley. At the period of the investigation of the charities, the income amounted to £200, arising from 105 acres of land; the governors are the corporation of Basingstoke, but the appointment of the master is in the crown. The instruction prescribed is merely literature, and the freedom extends to the youth and boys of the town; the school is considered free for classics only. The average number of scholars are twelve, who are taught the classics, history, geography, writing, and arithmetic; boys of the town paying 15s. and those of the neighbourhood £1 1s. a quarter.

In addition to the above there are three other endowed schools, namely, the Blue Coat school, the National school for boys, and the National school for girls. The first was established under the will of R. Aldworth, esq. 1646, of which the Corporation are the governors, and which has an income of £152, was intended for ten boys, children of poor men of the town, to be educated, lodged, boarded, clothed, and apprenticed; and at the present time ten boys are educated in the National school, and lodged in the master's house, maintained, clothed and apprenticed; the premium for apprentices being augmented by the gift of the Rev. T. Sheppard, D.D. and the voluntary contributions of the corporation. The National school for boys, founded under the will of Sir J. Lancaster, 1618, and increased by the Rev. T. Sheppard, D.D. in 1816, has a permanent income of £33 6s. 8d. The National school for girls derives an income of £19 from the gifts of the Rev. Dr. Sheppard and J. Sheppard, esq.; this income is applied in aid of the funds raised by voluntary subscription. The town also possesses several excellent charities, amongst which are Almshouses for eight poor men or women, founded and endowed by Sir James

Deane in 1607, and Alms houses for three poor widows of the Independent Congregation, founded by Joseph Page, esq. in 1808.

Basingstoke returned members to Parliament from the 23rd of Edward I. to the 4th of Edward II. and was incorporated by James I. The charter, which was confirmed by Charles II. vested the government in the town in a mayor, seven aldermen and seven burgesses, to be assisted by a high steward, recorder and town clerk, and conferred the right of holding Quarter Sessions, and a court for the recovery of debts under £10. By the Municipal Act the Corporation consists of a mayor, four aldermen and twelve councillors, but does not possess the power of holding Quarter Sessions. The town-hall and market place, a handsome building erected a few years since, partly at the expence of the corporation, and partly by subscription, contains an elegant assembly room, 60 feet long by 30 feet broad. The Corn Market is held on Wednesday, and for butter &c. on Saturday. The fairs are held on Easter Tuesday, Whit-Monday and October the 11th.

The town has given birth to several men eminent for their classical and general attainments. Amongst whom may be mentioned John de Basingstoke, a Dominican friar, Archdeacon of Leicester, who flourished in the reign of Henry III; Richard White, Regius Professor at Douay, in the reign of James I. who wrote a history of Britain, which was much commended by the learned Selden; the two Wartons, Joseph and Thomas, sons of the Rev. T. Warton, some time professor of poetry in the University of Oxford, and afterwards vicar of Basingstoke. The eldest, Dr. Joseph Warton, was born in the year 1722, was educated first at Winchester College, and afterwards at New College, Oxford; and subsequently elected Head Master at Winchester College, and appointed one of the Prebendaries of the Cathedral. The younger, Thomas Warton, educated first at Winchester, but afterwards of Trinity College, Oxford, was a multifarious writer, and was not more distinguished for his poetry than for his criticisms. In 1785, he was

elected Camden Professor of Ancient History at Oxford, Poet Laureate, and was considered one of the chief literary characters of his age.

The parish of *Old Basing*, which abuts that of Basingstoke to the north-east, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as containing $6\frac{1}{2}$ hides, 6 mills, 40 acres of meadow, and woods which furnished 25 hogs, and as being worth £16. It was held by Hugh de Port, a Norman Baron, who obtained from his royal master no less than forty manors in this county, and who erected here a strong castle, where he and his successors generally resided. In the reign of Henry III. the then possessor obtained permission of the king to fix a pole upon the bann of his moat at Basing, and also permission to continue it for life or during the king's pleasure. Soon after the Reformation, Pawlett one of the descendants of de Port, and successively in favor with Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary and Elizabeth, and who was created Marquis of Winchester, having obtained a rich booty from the spoils of the church, erected near the old castle, a mansion, in such a magnificent and princely style, that, Camden declares it was of such exceeding largeness and beauty as to be over-charged with its own weight, that its posterity were obliged to pull down a part of it. Here he entertained Queen Elizabeth in 1560, with all the pomp and hospitality in which the "Virgin Queen" delighted.

On the breaking out of the Civil war, Basing House was immediately put into a state of defence and garrisoned by John, the fifth Marquis of Winchester, for his royal master. The area of the works, including the garden and intrenchments, occupied fourteen acres and a half. The form was irregular, the ditches very deep and the ramparts high and strong, as is evinced by the remains which still exist, of which the north gateway and part of the outward wall are yet standing. The place was invested by Sir William Waller, in the month of August, 1643, who in the space of nine days thrice attempted to take the place by storm, but was as often successfully repulsed. The command of the beleaguerees

was entrusted to Colonel Norton of Southwick House in this county. For two years the gallant Marquis bravely and successfully defended the place; the garrison making occasional sallies, by which for a time they obtained their necessary supplies. Within a year, however, from the commencement of the blockade, provisions failing, the Marquis sent to the King, at that time at Oxford, for succour, assuring him that, if not relieved within ten days, famine would compel him to surrender. This was difficult, as the Parliament had strong garrisons at Abingdon and Reading, and the whole intervening country between Oxford and Basing was in their possession. Col. Gale volunteered his services to conduct this dangerous enterprise, which he accomplished with the loss of only nine men. Within two months after this, the garrison was again in distress from want of provisions, and were again relieved by the gallantry of Col. Gage, who appeared before the walls with 1000 cavalry, each man having a sack of corn, which they threw down, and made the best of their way towards Oxford. At length, in the month of October, 1645, Oliver Cromwell, who had contributed so materially to the royal defeat at Naseby, and had rendered his name terrible through the western counties, appeared with his *Ironsides* before Basing House, which he resolved to take by storm. The outer works were taken by surprise, whilst, according to tradition, a portion of the garrison was engaged at cards, hence the saying "Clubs are Trumps! as when Basing House was taken;" the house was bravely defended, but at length taken, and the noble Marquis and 400 of the garrison made prisoners. The celebrated fanatic Hugh Peters, who was at the taking of the house, reported to Parliament, that it was a house fit for an Emperor to dwell in, it was so spacious and beautiful. The plunder obtained on this occasion is said to have amounted to £200,000, in plate, jewels, cash and rich furniture, among which there was a bed valued at £1,400; and it is recorded that every private soldier got £300. The house was burnt to the ground, because it is said the Marquis had written during the

seige on every window of the house with a diamond *Aimez Loyauté*—"Love Loyalty," which from that day to this has been the family motto: the Old House is also known from the same circumstance as *Loyalty House*.

The church at Old Basing, situated at a short distance from the site of the Old House; is a Norman structure, but has received various alterations, and consists of a nave and two aisles, with a tower rising from the centre, which is supported by round arches, springing from massive columns. At the west end there is an elegant statue in a niche of the Virgin Mary, to whom the church is dedicated. This was the mausoleum of the Pawlet family, till the extinction of the male line of the elder branch by the death of the sixth and last Duke of Bolton. The living is a vicarage, annexed to that of Basingstoke, to which it has been united for more than six hundred years. The National school in this parish is endowed with £20, the gift of the Rev. Dr. Sheppard, whose name occurs before in this sketch.

About two miles south of the village, and situated partly within the parish, we have the park and mansion of Hackwood, the residence of Lord Bolton. The original name was *Hawk*, or *Hawking wood*, and when Basing House was in its glory, was appropriated for the exercise of the favourite diversion of hawking. Two centuries ago the mansion was occupied by a lodge, where the company assembled for the purpose of enjoying sylvan sports, connected with which was a banqueting room for their entertainment when the pastime was finished. After the demolition of Old Basing House, the brave marquis, and his son, the first Duke of Bolton, resided at Hackwood, which was enlarged, improved, and rendered a suitable residence for its noble owner. Since that period various alterations have been made, especially by the late Duke of Bolton and his son-in-law, the first Lord Bolton. In the front of the house there is an equestrian statue of George I. presented by that monarch to the Duke of Bolton, who had been

honoured with his notice and correspondence while his Majesty was but yet Elector of Hanover. The park is very extensive, and its surface broken and abrupt, abounding with the finest timber; the beeches especially are of extraordinary height and luxuriance, many of them mantled to their topmost branches with ivy, which hanging down from them in loose chains of rich foliage, form a peculiar and picturesque feature in the scenery, and in the winter tend to enliven and animate the gloom of the season. Various improvements have within the last half century been made in the park; the formal avenues, so highly prized in the reigns of William III. and Queen Anne, have been broken into walks and glades, and contain about 500 head of deer.

Immediately without the park, to the south, we have the little village of *Winslade*. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of Lord Bolton, the tythes of which have been commuted at £204. Connected with this parish is the manor and tything of Kempshott, mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to Hugh de Port, and as containing two hides, of the value of thirty shillings. Kempshott House, which stands in a spacious park fronting the road from Southampton and London, about three miles to the south-west of Basingtoke, was for several centuries the seat of the Pinke family, of whom Robert Pinke was celebrated for his acquaintance with philosophy and divinity; he was born in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and educated at Winchester College, and New College, Oxford, of which latter he ultimately became warden, and died in 1647. Towards the latter end of the last century, the last of the family sold the manor, which has since that time frequently changed hands, and was for several years occupied by the then Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV. as a hunting seat. It is now the seat of E. W. Blount, esq. who purchased the estate in 1832, and who, besides otherwise improving the property, has caused the interior of the house to be decorated in the Italian style.

Tunworth, the adjoining parish to the east, presents

nothing worthy of notice. In the reign of William the Conqueror the manor formed part of the possessions of Hugh de Port, and now of that of G. P. Jervoise, esq. of Herriard House. The living is a rectory in his gift, and is of the annual value of £200.

The parish of Herriard, to the south-west, is a vicarage of the annual value of £200, in the patronage of Lord Bolton, the impropriator of the great tythes. The church is an ancient edifice situated within the precincts of the park, and is remarkable for the loss of its tower, which fell down about two hundred years ago, and has never been restored. Herriard House is a stately mansion erected in the reign of Queen Anne, and is seated in an extensive and finely wooded park.

About the distance of four miles directly south of Basingstoke, we have the secluded village of *Ellisfield*, which till the reign of Edward III. could boast of two churches. The name is said to be derived from Ella, the founder of the kingdom of Sussex, or South Saxons, who here defeated his adversaries, the Britons. There are remains of several ancient entrenchments in the neighbourhood, one of which occupies an area of three acres, and is surrounded by a deep moat, and was according to tradition the site of a regal residence. The living is a rectory, the tythes of which have been commuted at £402, in the gift of B. Brocas, esq.

Nutley, to the south-east, is a chapelry annexed to the parish of Preston Candover. It is entitled Nodlie in the Domesday Book, but with Herriard, called Hanert, was without church or mill.

The adjoining parish to the north-east is *Dummer*, called by the same name in the Domesday Book. The manor at that time contained five ploughlands and a church, and was worth 100s. The living is a rectory in the patronage of W. Adams, esq. the tythes of which have been commuted at £443; in addition to which there is a glebe, of the annual value of £105. The church is an ancient structure, and contains a curious monumental brass, bearing the following inscription :

" I William at-More Dummer call'd do here entombed lie,
And lordship this and of the Church the patronage had I.
Mine ancestors me long before were owners of the same
Obtained by match with Dummer's heir, whereof they took
name,

Which name and living here on earth, as from them I possess,
So like in earth like them I am for worms become a guest.
This, reader, death on me hath brought, that to mankind is
due,

And like of thee, in nature's course, is sure for to ensue."

Near to this inscription, in a recess in the wall, to which there is a door, there are also figures in brass, and underneath the following inscription, which seems to relate to the above :

" Within this tomb lyeth the body of Willim at-More or Dummer, esq. born 16 of February, anno 1508. He served the city of London in the office of one of the Lord Mayor Courts and Comptroller of the Chamber fifty years, and died the — day of — at —. He married Henborough, the daughter of Edmund Brydges of London, Draper."

To the north-east we reach *Farleigh Wallop*, which derives its adjunct from the Wallop family, whose principal residence was in this parish for several centuries, and whose descendants the Fellowes, Earls of Portsmouth are the lords of the manor and patrons of the rectory of Cliddesden, to which the chapelry of Farleigh Wallop is annexed. From this place the present earl derives one of his titles of nobility; his ancestor, John Wallop, first earl of Portsmouth, was created Baron Wallop of Farleigh Wallop, eleven years before he was elevated to the earldom.

Cliddesden adjoins Farleigh Wallop to the north; it is mentioned in the Domesday Book as having formed part of the estates of King Harold. Here is a school endowed by the Earl of Portsmouth, to which the children of Farleigh Wallop are free. The rectory is of the annual value of £685.

Church Oakley is the adjoining parish to the north-west, and is mentioned in the Domesday Book as assessed at three hides, and containing five ploughlands and a church. Malsanger, in this parish, was the family

seat and birth-place of Warham, who was Archbishop of Canterbury, and filled offices in the state in the reigns of Henry VII. and Henry VIII.. He was educated first at Wykeham's College, at Winchester, from whence he was removed to New College, Oxford. He was high in favour with the first-mentioned monarch, and was successively Keeper of the Rolls, Ambassador to Philip Duke of Burgundy, Keeper of the Broad Seal, Bishop of London, Chancellor of England, and Archbishop of Canterbury, which last honour he enjoyed twenty-eight years. In the following reign his influence was supplanted by that of Wolsey, after which he confined himself to his archiepiscopal duties, and expended the amazing sum, for that day, of £750, in rebuilding and repairing the edifices belonging to his see. Erasmus makes honourable mention of him, declaring him to have been a perfect model of the episcopal character; he died in 1532, and was interred in his own cathedral. The arms and crest of the Warham family may be seen over the spandrells of the door of the parish church. There is here a school established, 1666, under the will of G. Wither, esq. of the adjoining manor of Manydown, for the education of eight poor boys of Dean and Oakley in reading, writing, and accounts, for which purpose he bequeathed a rent charge of £8, a fair sum for the purpose, according to the then value of money; he also bequeathed other property for the purpose of apprenticing the children. The living is a rectory in the patronage of King's College, Cambridge, of the annual value of £320. Oakley Hall, the seat of W. H. Beach, esq. is situated close to the south-western railway, which intersects the park.

Two miles in an easterly direction brings us to the little village of *Worting*. The manor is mentioned in the Domesday Book as containing a church, and belonging to the cathedral of Winchester, the dean and chapter of which are still lords of the manor, and the principal proprietors of the parish. The rectory, in the gift of the Rev. Lovelace Bigg Wither, is of the annual value of £275.

The next parish to the north is *Wootton St. Lawrence*. The church is of Norman foundation, and possesses a beautiful circular headed doorway, but the pillars, arches, and windows are Early English. The living is a vicarage, of the annual value of £211, of which the dean and canons of Winchester are the patrons and impropriators of the great tythes, as were their predecessors the prior and monks of St. Swithin before the Norman Conquest.

Nearly adjoining the village we have the extensive and spacious park of Manydown, at the present occupied by Sir Richard Rycroft, belonging to the Rev. Lovelace Bigg Wither, whose family have been settled in the neighbourhood nearly five hundred years. It appears that the manor of Manydown, which had always formed part of the possessions of the cathedral of Winchester, was confiscated by the Long Parliament in 1649, and sold to William Wither, esq. an ancestor of the present proprietor. At the Restoration the church regained their rights, and from that time the manor, park, and mansion, have been held by a lease of lives from the dean and chapter. The house is an ancient and irregular building, surrounded by a square enclosure called the Cheney Court. The name of the estate is said to be a corruption of Manor Down, the whole country being down when the manor was created. Immediately to the north of Manydown, we have Tangier Park, formerly the seat of W. Lutley Sclater, esq. but now the property and residence of the Rev. L. Bigg Wither. The mansion was either erected or greatly altered in the early part of the reign of Charles II. The old park was broken up and the deer destroyed about fifty years ago, but the fine old timber which remains preserves the ancient character of the place. The ornamental grounds adjoin those of Manydown, and if the fence were taken away they would form a very extensive and beautiful park.

Still pressing northward, we have next the parish of *Sherborne St. John's*, so called to distinguish it from

the adjoining parish of Monks Sherborne, but both deriving the addition from their respective proprietors, the former being part of the possessions of the Paulets, Lords St. John, and the latter belonging to a community of Monks established in the parish. The living is a vicarage, of the annual value of £193. We have here another of those sinecure rectories which was noticed at Overton; in the present instance the value of the sinecure is £407, the holder of which has the right of presenting to the vicarage, and to whom belongs sixty-three acres out of the sixty-four of which the glebe consists. The patronage of the rectory is the property of W. L. W. Chute, esq. of the neighbouring noble mansion, long known as *the Vine*. This title is said to be derived from the number of vines planted here, soon after their first introduction into Britain during the supremacy of the Romans. The story is highly improbable, though it has been adopted by Camden and other antiquarians, but there is no question that it has borne the name for several centuries. It was for many years the principal residence of the ancient family of the Sandys, both before and after they were raised to the peerage. In the early part of the reign of Henry VIII. we learn from Leland, that it was no great and sumptuous manor place, and was only surrounded by a moat, till the first Lord Sandys, augmented it, so that in the year 1550, it was one of the best residences in all Hampshire. During the Commonwealth, the mansion and manor passed by purchase from the Sandys family into that of Chaloner Chute, esq. an ancestor of the present proprietor. Col. Henry Sandys, who distinguished himself by his loyalty and courage in the reign of Charles I. was mortally wounded at Cheriton Fight, and his son and successor suffered greatly in his property for his attachment to the royal cause, and was obliged to part with his patrimonial estate, which he did in the year 1654. The purchaser was an eminent lawyer and high in the confidence of the then ruling powers, and in Parliament twice represented the county of Middlesex.

During his lifetime the house was greatly altered and improved under the directions of Inigo Jones and his son-in-law, Webb. The house stands low, but is of considerable extent : attached to it there is an ancient and curious domestic chapel, on each side of which there are stalls curiously carved ; the three windows at the east end are filled with stained glass, brought from Boulogne by the first Lord Sandys, soon after the surrender of that town to the English Arms in the reign of Henry VIII. the upper compartment of which contains subjects from the New Testament, and the lower compartments the figures of Francis the First, King of France, and his two wives, attended by their titular saints. The floor is covered with tiles of various sizes, brought also from Boulogne, each of them having a figure, motto, or device upon it.

Adjoining the chapel is the tomb-room, erected by John Chute, esq. the friend of Gray and Horace Walpole, in which there is an altar tomb, on which rests the recumbent effigy of his ancestor, Chaloner Chute, esq. in his robes as speaker of the House of Commons, sculptured by Banks, from a full-length portrait by Vandyke. The park, though not of great extent, is well diversified with hill and dale, wood and water, and contains some excellent timber.

Sherborne Monks, as well as Sherborne St. John, formed part of the widely-spread estates of Hugh de Port, whose name has been frequently mentioned in these sketches. At the time of William the Conqueror the manor of Sherborne was assessed at seven hides, of which sixteen villagers and nineteen borderers occupied five ploughlands. Here was a church, three mills, and twenty acres of meadow. Henry de Port, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, in the reign of Henry I. founded here a small monastery, which he endowed with the surrounding lands, but which was soon afterwards made a cell to the abbey Ceracei in Normandy. Soon after the suppression of the alien priories, the revenues were granted by Henry VI. to his newly-erected college

at Eton, but his rival and successor reclaimed them, and afterwards granted them to the hospital of St. Julian, or God's House, Southampton, to which establishment they still belong; and the Provost and Fellows of Queen's College, Oxford, as Wardens of the said hospital, present to the living, which is of the annual value of £50. The church is an ancient structure, in addition to which the chapel of the priory, dedicated to St. Benedict, still remains, and Divine service is performed in it every Sunday. It contains a curious altar tomb, bearing the figure of a Knight Templar, supposed to be the founder, but more probably one of his descendants.

To the south-east we have the parish of *Newnham*, a rectory with the chapelry of Maplederwell, of the annual value of £400, and is another of those many benefices which in this portion of Hampshire are in the patronage of Queen's College, Oxford. Newnham is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, being there probably included in some other manor, but Maplederwell appears as belonging to Hugh de Port, and possessing two mills.

Between the two last mentioned parishes we have those of *Nately Scures* and *Upper Nately*, both possessing a church of Norman foundation. The former is a rectory of the annual value of £178, in the patronage of Lord Dorchester, who has a seat in the parish; and the latter a chapelry annexed to the vicarage of Basingstoke.

Proceeding westward till we reach the suburbs of that town, we have the little parish of *Eastrop*, which in the reign of William the Conqueror possessed a mill. The living is a rectory in the gift of Sir William Oglander, the tythes of which have been commuted at £85.

SKETCH XIII.

THE NORTH WESTERN EXTREMITY.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Kingsclere - - - - -	11890	9312	2732
Itchingswell - - - - -	900	1788	506
Sidmonton - - - - -	4471	1315	151
Burghclere - - - - -	3560	1674	2845
Newtown - - - - -	570	618	246
Highclere - - - - -	4560	2871	468
Ashmanworth - - - - -	1740	1419	220
East Woodhay - - - - -	5110	5025	1408
Combe - - - - -	2190	1603	203
Linkenholt - - - - -	540	597	109
Vernham Dean - - - - -	2840	2987	707
Hurstborne Tarrant - - - - -	6380	3932	850
Tangley - - - - -	200	1573	281
Crux Easton - - - - -	950	666	102
Woodcut - - - - -	1350	766	102
Litchfield - - - - -	2900	1110	94
Hannington - - - - -	1220	1282	261
Ewhurst - - - - -	820	500	22
Wolverton - - - - -	1400	1330	208
Baughurst - - - - -	1020	1674	528

THE pleasant little town of *Kingsclere* is situated at a short distance from the Berkshire border, on a small stream, a tributary to the Embourn, which rises a little to the south of the town, and which, within two miles of its source, turns four mills. Kingsclere is of considerable antiquity, and was a seat belonging to the Saxon monarchs. In the Domesday Book, two manors in the north of Hampshire are mentioned by the name of Clere, a Saxon term, signifying a noble seat: one of them belonging to the King, and the other to the

Bishop of Winchester. The former, which constitutes the present parish, contained sixteen ploughlands, a market producing a rental of £16, and two mills.—Freemantle Park, to the south of the town, continued as a part of the crown lands till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and the keeper received the annual salary of £4. 11s. 3d, and the herbage and pannage, worth £11. King John was a frequent resident of the palace, and several of his public documents are so dated. Lord Bolton is now lord of the manor, possesses the impropriation of the great tythes, commuted at £1850, and the patronage of the vicarage, with the chapelries of Sidmonton and Itchingswell annexed, which is of the annual value of £400.

The market has almost fallen into disuse, and the place retains scarcely any semblance of a market town. It gives its name to one of the hundreds and one of the divisions of the county, which latter includes thirty parishes. It is also a polling place for North Hants, and the centre of a Poor Law Union. The church is a very ancient cruciform structure in the Norman style, with a massive square tower rising from the centre. A district church has recently been erected on Kingsclere common, and endowed with the pew rents. A free school was founded at a very early period, and endowed by Sir John Lancaster in 1618, with a rent charge of the value of £20. At present the school, which has been incorporated with the National School, furnishes education to all the poor children of the parish, the master's salary being increased by subscriptions.

The parishes of *Itchingswell* and *Sidmonton* are to the east of that of Kingsclere. The former in ancient times belonged to the see of Winchester, and in that of William the Conqueror contained two mills. The latter was part of the possessions of Romsey Abbey, and was by Henry VIII. granted to John Kingsmill, last prior and first dean of the cathedral church of Winchester as a reward for his compliance with the wishes of his imperious master. The church is of Norman

foundation, and the nave is separated from the chancel by an arch richly ornamented with zigzag mouldings.

Burghclere, the adjoining parish to the west, is a rectory, with the chapelry of Newtown annexed, in the patronage of the Earl of Carnarvon, of the gross annual value of £1100. The church which has lately been rebuilt is an elegant cruciform structure in the Early English style, with an embattled tower ornamented with turrets rising at the intersection. Here is an endowed school, founded under the will of E. Cornwallis, esq. 1741, who bequeathed £10 for that purpose, which endowment is increased by voluntary subscriptions, so that all the poor children may be taught gratis reading, writing, and arithmetic. In this parish is Beacon Hill, usually accounted the highest hill in Hampshire, but it is out-topped by its neighbour Sidon, the one being 900 feet and the other 940 feet. On its summit there are the remains of an ancient encampment surrounded by a deep and wide foss. The form of the camp, which is irregular, is well preserved, and very deep where the ascent is most easy; the entrance is on the south side, where it is defended by two ravelins; within the area are several vestiges of ancient huts, probably British. On the adjoining down there are seven large barrows and three smaller ones, in opening one of the former mould was found to occupy half its height, under which were flints reaching to the surface of the down, and under an arch of flints burnt bones and ashes were found. In the smaller barrow there was no accumulation of mould or flint, and the bones and ashes were contained in holes made in the chalk. The largest barrow is about one hundred yards in circumference, and ten or twelve feet high. Ladle hill, about a mile and half to the east, has a circular encampment, the area of which contains eight acres, and on the down there are three barrows.

The parish of *Newtown* is to the north of that of *Burghclere* with the village and church situated on the Oxford road from Southampton, near to the Embourn stream which divides the two counties. It is remarkable

that while we find the banks of the Itchen and Test, and even their small tributaries so thickly studded with churches, the Embourn in its course of twelve miles, for which distance it is the boundary of Hants and Berks, has but one solitary church within its margin—a clear proof that the district was little better than wilds and forests, whilst the other portion of the county received all the cultivation which the then knowledge of the inhabitants could confer upon it.

Still further westward, we have the parish of *Highclere*, containing the park and mansion of the Earl of Carnarvon, and was till the reign of Edward VI. a parcel of the possessions of the Bishops of Winchester, who had a palace and often resided here. Several of the public acts of the celebrated William of Wykeham are dated at Highclere, and in the codicil of his will he bequeaths £5 to the rector of the parish, and directs his executors to reward the park keeper according to their discretion. The manor at that time included the adjoining parishes of Woodhay, Ashmansworth, Newtown, Itchingwell, and Burghclere. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to the bishoprick, assessed at seven and a half hides, and containing seventeen ploughlands, of which sixteen were held by twenty villagers and eighteen borderers. Here were also twenty-four freemen and three servants, a mill, and a church. This manor continued in the possession of the see, till the deprivation of Bishop Gardiner, and the appointment of John Poynt as his successor, in 1552. Highclere and Burghclere, with the advowsons and patronages of the churches, were by a formal grant conveyed to the infant sovereign to be by him conveyed to Sir William Fitz William, one of the gentlemen of his bed-chamber. Queen Mary restored to the church its ancient patrimony, which it enjoyed but for a few years, as in the first of the reign of her successor, Elizabeth, Highclere and Burghclere were regranted to Fitz William, in whose family they remained till the reign of Charles II. when they were purchased by Sir Robert Sawyer,

attorney-general to that monarch and his brother James II. and who conducted the celebrated prosecution of the seven bishops. His daughter and heiress married Thomas Earl of Pembroke, whose second son, upon the death of Sir Robert, succeeded to the estate in virtue of his grandfather's bequest; dying without issue he was succeeded by his nephew the first Earl of Carnarvon, the grandfather of the present Earl, who purchased of the bishop the other part of the ancient manor of Highclere.

The noble mansion and spacious park of the Hampshire branch of the Herbert family is well worth notice. The park is about thirteen miles in circumference, but its form is very irregular. Here is a greater diversity of surface than in any park in this part of the kingdom. Sidon hill, the ascent to which commences within half a mile of the house, rises almost perpendicularly to nearly 400 feet above the surrounding valley, and is crowned with a ruined arch, backed by noble trees, and forms a striking contrast with Beacon Hill, situated without the precincts of the park, which has not a single tree or shrub. The park owes its present beauty to the first earl, and to him the present proprietor is indebted for the delightful drives within its precincts. In the northern part there is an extensive sheet of water called Milford Water, which derives peculiar charms from its secluded situation and the venerable antiquity of its surrounding woods, in which it is completely enveloped. Extensive rides, admitting beautiful views, have also been made at Pen-wood, a large tract of oak, interspersed with an abundance of hollies, many of them of an unusual size. The house stands 587 feet above the level of the sea, and although its exterior is by no means striking and impressive, its interior is commodious and more distinguished for elegance than splendour. The entrance-hall measures seventy feet by twenty-four, the library thirty-three feet by twenty-three, the dining-room is of the same extent, and the other apartments of a proportionable size. The house contains some excellent

paintings, especially by Vandyke, amongst which are two of the Earls of Pembroke, and the Holy Family with angels threading the needle, with others by Sir Joshua Reynolds, Mortimer, &c. The church, which is a neat edifice, and was rebuilt about fifteen years since, is situated within the park. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of the Earl of Carnarvon, the tythes of which have been commuted at £305, in addition to which there are eighty-five acres of glebe.

The noble family of Herbert traces its descent from Henry Fitzroy, a natural son of Henry I. and were for several centuries settled in South Wales. The first of them that enjoyed the title of Earl of Pembroke was William Herbert, Lord Ragland, who was Chief Justice and Chamberlain of South Wales under Edward IV. but was afterwards beheaded at Northampton, by the command of the king-maker Earl of Warwick, for his adherence to the house of York. The title then became extinct, but was revived in the reign of Edward VI, when it was conferred on Sir William Herbert, from whom the noble houses of Pembroke and Carnarvon are lineally descended. This Sir William Herbert, like the first Marquis of Winchester, was of a very accommodating nature, and by his subserviency retained the successive favors of Henry VIII. Edward VI. Mary, and Elizabeth. In the reign of the first-named Sovereign he was Master of the Horse, and Lord President of the marches of Wales; and upon the dissolution of the monastries obtained as his share the rich abbey of St. Mary at Wilton. In the following reign he was first created Lord Herbert of Cardiff; and on the following day Earl of Pembroke. In the reign of Queen Mary he was the General of the Forces employed against the Kentish rebels, and commanded the English Horse at the battle of St. Quinten, in Picardy, and for his services on that occasion received, in addition to his other titles, that of Baron St. Quinten. He was also one of the Privy Council of Queen Elizabeth and master of her Household. The Hampshire branch of the family are

descended from the fifth son of Thomas, eighth Earl of Pembroke, through Henry Herbert, grandfather of the present Earl, created Baron Porchester in 1780, and Earl of Carnarvon in 1793.

The adjoining parish to the west, *Ashmansworth*, is a chapelry annexed to the rectory of *East Woodhay*, and is so called to distinguish it from the adjoining parish of West Woodhay in Berkshire. This latter parish is well diversified by patches of timber, and contains besides the village, two large hamlets called North End and East End. The present church, which is a neat structure, was erected in 1833, and the living which is a rectory, in the patronage of the Bishop of Winchester, of the annual value of £1,050. In this parish the Embourn, a tributary to the Kennet, and which for many miles is the line of demarcation between the counties of Hants and Berks, takes its rise. Here we have another of those ancient encampments which are so numerous in the western and north-western portions of Hampshire; it is however different from encampments in general, which are either round or approaching that shape, whilst the form of this is nearly square.

The parish to the west is *Coombe*, occupying the north-western extremity of Hampshire, and having for its northern border the county of Berks, and for its western border the county of Wilts. The church is an ancient structure, and was formerly much larger it being attached to a monastic establishment, the remains of which have been converted into a farm house. The manor is mentioned in the Domesday Book as containing a church, nine ploughlands, and a copse for fence-wood. The living is a vicarage, endowed with a portion of the rectorial tythes, of the annual value of £107, and is in the patronage of the dean and canons of Windsor.

Linkenholt to the south, is another border parish, with its village seated on a hill. In the reign of William the Conqueror the manor was held by the monks of Gloucester, who had here an establishment of six ser-

vants. The living is a rectory, of the gross annual value of £213, the Rev. J. G. Colson being the patron and incumbent.

Further south we have parishes of *Vernham's Dean* and *Tangley*, the former a chapelry annexed to the vicarage of Hurstbourn Tarrant, and the latter a chapelry annexed to the rectory of Faccombe.

Turning to the east we have the parish of *Hurstbourn Tarrant*, or in the language of the neighbouring rustics — Up Husband ; whilst the parish of Hurstbourn Priors, which is separated from the former by that of St. Mary Bourne, is known as Down Husband. The derivation of Hurstbourne is from *hurst*, a wood, and *bourne*, a stream, or the woody stream. In the reign of William the Conqueror there was two manors called Hurstbourne, one held by the king and the other by the bishop. There is evidence that Hurstbourne Priors was the property of the church, consequently this Hurstbourne formed part of the demense of the crown, it is noticed as a royal manor, containing a church, and obliged with those of Basingstoke and Clere to provide an establishment for the king for one day. The adjunct is derived from the abbey of Tarrant in Dorsetshire, which previous to the Reformation possessed the manor and tythes of this parish, as well as those of the adjoining parish of Vernham's Dean. Edward VI. granted them with other possessions in this county, to the first Marquis of Winchester for the maintenance of Netley fort, near Southampton, and retaining and supporting there one captain, one porter, one gunner and six soldiers. The patronage of the vicarage and a small portion of the tythe were annexed to the prebend of Hurstbourn and Burbage in the cathedral of Salisbury. By the late commutation the great tythes of the two parishes were valued at £1,350, and the small or vicarial tythes at 402 ; in addition to which there is a glebe of the value of £50. The village is situated about half way on the road between Andover and Newbury, and possesses a fine old church of Norman foundation.

The adjoining parish of *Facombe* originally formed part of that of Combe, which abuts it on the south. The living is a rectory with the chapelry of Tanglely annexed, of the annual value of £700, and is in the patronage of the Rev. J. E. Lance.

The parish to the east, *Cruz-Easton*, derives its prefix from the circumstance of the manor being held at the compilation of the Domesday Book by Croch, or Croc, the huntsman, and then contained five ploughlands, a church, twenty acres of meadow, and a copse for fences, and was worth £6. It was once famous for its grotto constructed by nine sisters of the name of Lisle, which Pope has celebrated in verse; but at the present time, the estate having passed into other hands, the grotto has been suffered to go to ruin. One of the sisters possessed great talents for painting, and on the trees of the grove surrounding this grotto she painted portraits of several of her acquaintances in a manner which produced a singular effect, as they appeared to form parts of the trees themselves. The living is a rectory of the value of £108, in the gift of Jas. Bagge, esq.

The small parish of *Woodcut* to the south, is a donative curacy, of the annual value of £20, in the patronage of the trustees of the late E. Temple, esq. the impropriators of the tythes. It is called Odecot in the Domesday Book, but the church is of more recent foundation.

Litchfield, interpreted the field of blood, is the adjoining parish to the south-east, and is said to have been the site of a city previous to the time of the Saxons. If ever one existed, all traces of it have long been lost. The manor is mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to Winchester cathedral, and containing a mill and a half. The church is an ancient structure, and the living a rectory, of the gross annual value of £400, in the gift of W. Kingsmill, esq.

Hannington further east, is also mentioned in the Domesday Book as possessing a church, and belonging to the Bishop of Winchester, who is still the patron of the rectory, the tythes being commuted at £410.

To the north and between the Berkshire border, we have in succession the parishes of *Ewhurst*, *Wolverton*, and *Baughhurst*, of which the two first mentioned are rectories, in the patronage of his Grace the Duke of Wellington, of the respective annual value of £104, and £300, and the last also a rectory, in the gift of the bishop, the tythes of which have been commuted at £339. These are respectively mentioned in the Domesday Book, but neither possessed a church or mill, and probably formed part, as the term *hurst* implies, of the great forest which covered the northern portion of Hampshire. *Ewhurst* means the Forest of Yews which trees still abound throughout the district.

SKETCH XIV.

WHITCHURCH AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Whitchurch	7330	6512	1741
Freefolk	800	1155	70
Laverstoke	1530	1428	123
Overton	6490	7620	1590
Ashe	2310	2834	160
Dean	1350	2238	164
Steventon	1830	4327	193
North Waltham	1970	1799	494
Popham	1670	948	99
Stratton	2190	1754	419
Mitcheldever	9340	13369	1119
Stoke Charity	1040	2232	167
Hunton	1560	756	111
Wonston	4160	4709	786
Barton Stacey	4520	4233	561
Bullington	1760	1882	187
Long Parish	4320	4817	810
Tufton	2160	1170	153
Hurstbourn Priors	3070	2597	506
St. Mary Bourn	6640	5849	1152

THE town of *Whitchurch* is situated on the main stream of the Test, 12 miles direct north of Winchester, and 56 south-west of London. From the reign of Queen Elizabeth till the passing of the Reform Act it returned two representatives to Parliament, and to a more recent date possessed a market. It has still a titular mayor, chosen annually at the Court Lect of the dean and chapter of Winchester, held in October, in the Town Hall, and another Court is held at the Manor House under them as Lords of the manor.

Whitchurch is mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to the see of Winchester, and is there called Witcerce. The lands were assessed at thirty-three hides,

of which five ploughlands were held in demense, and forty-two villagers, and fifty borderers occupied twenty-eight ploughlands. Here were also fifteen of the bishop's servants, three mills which let at forty shillings, and woods which furnished forty hogs. The church is an ancient edifice, but low, plain and unworthy of notice. Connected with it is a library of theological works bequeathed by a former vicar for the use of the inhabitants of the town. The living is a vicarage in the patronage of the bishop, of the annual value of £140. The dissenters in the town are numerous and possess several chapels, those of the Independents and Baptists being spacious buildings. A quantity of clothing of the annual value of £80, is distributed among the poor, arising from a bequest made by Richard Woolaston, esq. in the year 1688.

The town still possesses a silk manufactory which gives employment to a great number of hands, and fifty years ago shalloons, serges and other woollens were manufactured in the town to the annual value of £10,000. In addition to the loss of this portion of its trade, its market and Parliamentary honours, Whitchurch has to complain that it is in a great measure cut off from the busy world. Being situated on the high road from London to Salisbury, Exeter, and the west of England, its means of communication were great; now it is rendered almost as solitary as an isolated village, being at the distance of six miles from a railway station.

Proceeding up the valley of the Test we have first the parish of *Freefolk*, the living of which is a donative curacy in the patronage of the master and brethren of St. Cross, of the annual value of £15, service being performed in the church once in the month by the chaplain of that hospital. Freefolk is called Frigefolc in the Domesday Book, and was part of the possessions of the see of Winchester, from which it was probably severed by Bishop de Blois, in his endowment of the Hospital of St. Cross with the manors belonging to the bishoprick. On the north bank of the river, and richly

ornamented with a variety of fine old timber is the park and mansion of Freefolk Priors, the property of John Portal, esq.

Adjoining the last mentioned parish, but higher up the stream, is the village of *Laverstoke*, which anciently belonged to the New Monastery at Winchester from which it was dissevered by William the Conqueror, in consequence of its abbot Alwyn and twelve of his monks taking up arms to oppose the Norman Invasion, as noticed in a previous sketch. This manor was, however, restored to the abbey by William, as the grant states, "for the repose of his own soul and that of his wife." At that time it was assessed at six hides, and contained a church and two mills, and was worth £8.

In a well wooded and beautiful park, on the north of the river, and pleasantly seated on undulating ground, which gradually slopes down to the waters edge stands the present mansion of William Portal, esq. It was rebuilt under the direction of *Bononi*, at the commencement of the present century, and commands a fine view of the hanging woods which clothe the rising ground on the opposite side of the stream. The family of Portal, one of the oldest and most distinguished of the nobility of Languedoc, filled the highest civil and military offices in that province for upwards of six centuries, and from the time of Oldric de Portal in the 12th century. History makes mention of various members of that family as having been at the head of the legislature, and of the administration of justice, for several successive generations, as well as having signally distinguished themselves in military exploits at different periods. They were possessed of considerable estates near Toulouse, and were some of the earliest and most distinguished Protestants in France, for which they suffered alike in their persons and property, one of them sealing the truth of his faith by his blood upon the scaffold. Upon the Revocation of the Edict of Nantz, the property of Jean Francois de Portal was declared forfeited, the chateau de la Portaliere

was burnt to the ground, himself and the greater number of his household massacred, and his eldest son Henri de Portal was with difficulty rescued from a similar fate, and sent to England, where he became the purchaser of Freefolk Priors, and his descendents subsequently made very considerable additions to the property, in the parishes of Ashe, Overton and Whitchurch.

The church is a neat but small building, situated in the park, and the living is a rectory of the net annual value of £61, in the gift of Mr. Portal. In the village there is a manufactory of the paper used for the notes of the Bank of England, which have been made here ever since the reign of George I.

We next arrive at the pleasant little town of *Overton*, famed for its sheep fairs. Overton, at the time of the Conquest, possessed two churches and four mills; of the forty-one hides at which it was assessed, five ploughlands were held by the bishop, who was the proprietor of the manor, and had here seventeen servants, whilst fifty villagers and twenty seven borderers occupied twenty-seven ploughlands. At one period Overton returned a representative to Parliament, but still more recently was a market town. It is not a century since the market-house was pulled down, and the materials employed in the erection of a barn. Here is a silk mill, erected in 1769, but the new mode of travelling by railway has destroyed also the appearance of this once lively little town. It has, however, the advantage of having a great number of gentlemen's residences either within the limits of the parish, or within its immediate neighbourhood. The church is an ancient edifice, situated on a rising ground within a quarter of a mile from the centre of the town. The living is a vicarage, of the annual value of £320. The vicar is appointed by the rector (a sinecure of the annual value of £63), who is appointed by the bishop of Winchester.

Beyond the last mentioned parish we have those of *Ashe* and *Dean*, which formerly were united, and in

which the Test takes its rise. The living of Ashe is a rectory in the patronage of W. H. Beach, esq. of the net value of £350. Dean, which was included in the above till the middle of the seventeenth century, is a rectory, the tythes of which have been commuted for a rent charge of £308. The church is a handsome edifice in the later English style, and was re-built in the year 1830 by W. Bramston, esq. at the expense of £7000. The principal manors in these two parishes were in the reign of Edward III. purchased by William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, who bequeathed them to his sister Agnes, the wife of William Champnes, who had issue one daughter Alice, who married Perrot, whose son assumed the name of Wickham, whose granddaughter married the second Lord Say and Sele, by which the estates passed into that family, and at a later period into other hands.

Turning to the south, and on the highland between the sources of the Test and that of its western tributary are the parishes of *Steventon*, *North Waltham* and *Popham*. The first is a rectory in the gift of E. Knight, esq. of the annual value of £632; the second a rectory, with the tythes, and glebe commuted at £490, in the patronage of the bishop; and the last a chapelry annexed to the vicarage of Mitcheldever.

The parish of *Stratton*, where the last mentioned stream takes its rise, is remarkable as containing the park and residence of Sir Thomas Baring, bart. The *Stratton*, or rather Mitcheldever estate, where the manorial house originally stood, formed a part of the possessions of Hyde Abbey, which, at the dissolution of the religious houses, became the property of Sir Thomas Wriothesley, afterwards Earl of Southampton and Lord Chancellor of England, and in his family Mitcheldever, *Stratton*, and *Popham* continued till the reign of Charles II, when they passed into the family of the Russells, Dukes of Bedford, by the marriage of Rachel, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of the last Earl of Southampton, with the patriot William Lord Russell, from

which family it passed by purchase into the possession of Sir Francis, father to the present baronet. The mansion, which is an elegant and commodious residence, stuccoed to imitate stone, with a noble Doric stone portico at the south front, owes its present appearance to Sir Francis Baring, who made considerable additions to it. It contains an almost unequalled collection of paintings by the first masters, and numerous specimens of vertu. The park, which comprises about five hundred acres, is finely wooded and diversified in surface, containing within its limits the parish church, a neat modern erection with several highly decorated painted glass windows.

Descending the stream we soon reach the sequestered village of *Mitcheldever*, with its quaint houses presenting their high pitched gable roofs, with the brick and wood of which they are constructed painted yellow and black. The church, which is completely enveloped in trees, was erected, with the exception of the tower, by Sir Francis Baring, at the cost of £10,000, is a handsome structure of the Early English style, and contains a handsome monument to the Baring family. The living is a vicarage, with the chapelries of Northington, Stratton and Popham annexed, of the net value of £326, in the patronage of Sir Thomas Baring, who is the proprietor of the great tythes. The manor is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being held by the monks of the New Monastery, and including those of Stratton, Popham, Drayton and Cranbourn, containing no less than seventy-two ploughlands, yet without a church and only one mill.

The next parish in the course of the stream is *Stoke Charity*, a rectory in the patronage of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, of the gross annual value of £446. The church is an ancient and massive structure, surmounted by a spire, and contains several curious monumental inscriptions.

The parish of *Hunton*, on the opposite or northern side of the stream, consists of a narrow slip of land the

property of R. Pitter, esq. The living is a chapelry of the rectory of Crawley.

The parish of *Wonston* lies lower down the stream, on its southern side. The manor is mentioned in the Domesday Book as *Wenestune*, and at that period belonged to the Bishop of Winchester, the present patron of the living, and contained a church and a mill.

The hamlet of *Sutton Scotney*, then a distinct manor, is also noticed, containing not less than fifty ploughlands, of which twenty were occupied by sixty villagers and sixty borderers, a church and a mill, and woods which furnished one hundred hogs. The church, which was rebuilt at the commencement of the last century, and repaired and beautified at the expense of the present rector, contains a handsome painted window, presented by the Hon. and Rev. Augustus Legge, a former rector. In the village there is a printing office, from which, under the superintendence of the incumbent, are issued a number of religious publications. The tythes of the rectory have been commuted at £1150, with a glebe of the value of £28. The hamlet of *Sutton Scotney*, which is situated on the high road from London to Salisbury at the point where it is crossed by the road from Winchester to Oxford, contains a number of respectable residences, a large inn, and several roadside public-houses.

The adjoining parish on the same side of the stream is *Barton Stacey*, which, from the period of the Norman Conquest, has given its name to one of the hundreds of the county. The parish comprises the tythings of *Barton Stacey*, *Newton Stacey*, *Bransbury* and *Drayton*, all mentioned in the Domesday Book as separate manors. *Barton Stacey*, called *Bertune*, was a royal demesne, and was under the obligation of providing a complete entertainment for the king for half-a-day. It contained twenty-five ploughlands, five of which were retained in the royal hands, and the remainder cultivated by twenty-eight villagers and forty-seven borderers, a church, three mills, thirty-seven acres of meadows and

woods, which furnished eighty hogs, at the rental of £52. 6s. 1d, though worth no more than £33. Newton Stacey, called Niveton, was held by William the son of Maine, was equally extensive. Bransbury belonged to the Bishop of Winchester, and Drayton to Hyde. The former was assessed at four hides, contained a mill, and was worth £6. but there is no mention of what the latter consisted. The church and tythes of Barton Stacey were held by the abbey of Lanthony in Normandy, who retained possession thereof till the reign of Henry V, when it passed into the hands of the prior and monks of the cathedral of Winchester, and from them descended to the present dean and chapter, who are the appropriators of the great tythes, commuted at £698, and the patronage of the vicarage, of the gross annual value of £300. The church is a cruciform Early English structure, with a square embattled tower, crowned with pinnacles, surmounted with an angular turret. During the last two centuries, the beauties of the pointed architecture have been but sadly appreciated in this parish, and the most incongruous alterations have been introduced, so that this fine old pile greatly needs the hand and purse of a renovator. The village consists of a single street, which was almost entirely destroyed in 1792 by a fire occasioned by a spark from a blacksmith's shop alighting on some dry litter. The flames speedily extended to an adjoining malt-house, and a horse employed therein burnt to death. The premises being at the northern extremity of the village, and the wind blowing strongly in the direction of the street, and the houses covered with thatch, the fiery element extended its ravages with dreadful rapidity, and at one time no less than twenty-seven houses, thirteen barns, ten stables, several granaries, and four wheat ricks were in flames. The thatch on several extensive garden walls was completely burnt up, and a great number of carts, wagons, thrashed and unthrashed corn, twenty-eight pigs, a great quantity of poultry, and the furniture and entire property of the majority of the village destroyed.

One life alone was lost, namely, a farmer of the name of Friend, who persisted in obtaining 400 guineas deposited in his coffer, which he declared he would have or perish in the attempt. The latter was unhappily his fate, for he had scarcely reached the top of the stairs when the roof fell in, and he was seen no more.

The parish of *Bullington*, on the opposite side of the river, is mentioned in the Domesday Book day as belonging to the abbey of Wherwell, and containing six ploughlands and a mill. At the present time it is a chapelry attached to the rectory of Wherwell. Within its limits is situated an ancient encampment, containing an area of ten acres, known as Titbury hill, on which Roman coins and other remains have been discovered.

The adjoining parish to the north-west is *Longparish*, or Middeltune, the village of which extends about two miles on the eastern bank of the main stream of the Test. It is mentioned as Middeltune in the Domesday Book, as forming part of the possessions of the neighbouring abbey of Wherwell, and containing nine ploughlands, two mills, a fishery, and nine acres of meadow, and being worth £12. The living is a vicarage in the patronage of Lady Churchill, of the annual value of £226; and there is also here a sinecure prebend, the ancient duty of whom was most probably to preach in turn before the abbess and nuns of Wherwell.—The church is a fine old pile of the “late Norman” style, with windows of the “early decorated.” It consists of a nave, aisles and chancel, with a perpendicular tower of great beauty at the west end. The nave is separated from the aisles by three circular columns on each side, and from the chancel, as in the olden time, by an oak screen of a perpendicular character. The altar is of stone, over which there is suspended a large cross; the seats are all open, and the windows filled with stained glass. Unlike our village churches in general, the eye of the antiquarian is not shocked by witnessing the ravages of fanaticism and the incongruous alterations effected by men totally devoid

of taste. On the contrary, the church at Longparish appears in its pristine beauty and simplicity, and bears evidence that its restorations have been effected under the directions of one who fully appreciated the elegant and chaste designs of our ancient church architects. Here every thing is in character, and done in a manner as substantial as it is judicious. Within the last few years the worthy vicar, the value of whose benefice does not exceed £226, has expended on the church and school near £3,000, and is still employed in the good work.

Higher up the stream, but on the opposite side, is *Tufton*, or Tuckington, a chapelry annexed to Wherwell, with its diminutive church, the belfry of which bears a strong resemblance to a dove-cot.

Immediately opposite we have the village church and park of *Hurstbourn Priors*. The manor is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being held by the bishop for the monks of his cathedral, and as always having been abbey land, hence the term Priors. It was of large extent, probably including the parish of Mary Bourne, and contained fifty-one ploughlands, on which fifty-five villagers and thirty-eight borderers, employed forty-five ploughs, a hall with fourteen servants, five mills, thirty acres of meadow, woods which furnished twenty hogs, and was worth £40. The village is situated on the great western road, near to which is the church, an ancient structure. The Bishop of Winchester possesses the patronage of the vicarage, of the net annual value of £202, to which is united that of St. Mary Bourne, but the great tythes are the property of the Hospital of St. Cross, let on lease of lives to the Earl of Portsmouth, and are of the annual value of £1,500. *Hurstbourn Park*, the seat of the Earl of Portsmouth, is delightfully situated on the northern bank of the Test, and has long been famed for the excellence of its venison and for its noble oaks and beach, with which it is tastefully studded. The mansion is situated on a rising ground, and from the south or principal entrance, the ground gradually slopes to a large piece of water, which enters at the west through the park till it joins the Test at the south-east.

The house consists of a centre and two uniform wings, connected by a noble colonnade of the Tuscan order. The body has six noble rooms on each floor, containing paintings by the first masters. The east wing contains the library and chapel, and the west wing offices for servants. The chapel is in the Gothic style with a groined roof, enriched with the arms of the different branches of the family. Between the chapel and the mansion is the library, containing a capital collection of books of all the ancient and modern languages, as likewise several of the MS. of Sir Isaac Newton, who was related to the family, and an original portrait of whom appears on one of the chimney pieces.

The noble owner of this superb mansion is descended in the male line from a Saxon Thane, who possessed an estate in this county, namely Upper Wallop, as far back as Edward the Confessor. Camden in his description of this county says, "That the Test having taken into it little river from Wallop, or more truly Wellhop, that is by interpretation out of our forefathers' language, a pretty well in the side of a hill, whereof that right worshipful family of the Wallops of Knight's degree dwelling hard by, took name."

In the reign of King John, Matthew de Wallop had the custody of the castle of Winchester; and in the following reign Sir Robert de Wallop was appointed, with the Earls of Gloucester and Hereford, to decide upon and settle the differences between Henry III. and the barons. In 1329 Sir Richard de Wallop was elected as one of the Knights of the Shire—an honour which was frequently conferred on his descendants. In the reign of Henry V. another Sir Richard de Wallop was appointed, with five others of the greatest note of the county of Southampton, to enquire into the state of the Lollards, and other conventiclers in the county acting contrary to the faith of the Catholic church. Sir Robert Wallop, who was thrice sheriff of the county in the reign of Henry VII, was by the son and successor of that monarch nominated as one of the most discreet persons for assessing and collecting a subsidy of £163,000

by a poll-tax. His nephew and heir was admiral and commander of the English fleet in 1515, and was highly distinguished by his martial exploits. The French admiral having landed on the coast of Sussex and burnt down the town of Brighthelmstone, Sir John sailed to the coast of Normandy, where he landed and burnt 21 towns and villages, of which a contemporary writer remarks, that men marvelled at his enterprize, considering he had at most but 800 men, and landed them so often." In addition to his naval capacity, Sir John filled several civil offices, and was created a knight of the garter. His nephew, Sir Henry Wallop was eminently distinguished for his services in Ireland, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, where he acquired a large property. Sir John Wallop, who represented the county in the reign of George IV, was by that monarch created Viscount Lymington and Baron Wallop of Farleigh Wallop in the county of Southampton. In the following reign he was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county, Warden of the New Forest and Governor of the Isle of Wight, and Lord Warden and Chief Justice in eyre of all his Majesty forest, &c. beyond the Trent, and in 1743 was created Earl of Portsmouth. His grandson, the third Earl, assumed the name of Fellowes on succeeding to the property of his uncle by the maternal line.

Hurstbourn has been the family residence from the reign of Charles II.; prior to that their principal seat at Farleigh near Basingstoke, (and from which called Farleigh Wallop,) and still further back at Upper or Over Wallop. At one period the family appears to have possessed the following manors in this county:—Farleigh Wallop, Lower Wallop, Cliddesden, Hatch, Illsfield, Soberton, Appleshaw, Redenham, and Fifield, besides very extensive possessions in other counties.

The parish of *St. Mary Bourne*, which separates the parish of Hurstbourn Priors from that of Hurstbourn Tarrant, comprises the tythings of Binley, Bourne, Egbury, Stoke, Swampton and Week.

SKETCH XV.

ANDOVER AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Andover - - - - -	7670		4041
Foxcote - - - - -	620	718	72
Knight's Enham - - -	2490	1041	92
Penton Mewsey - - -	920	1589	249
Penton Grafton or Weyhill	1920	2584	375
Appleshaw - - - - -	850	1497	372
Kimpton - - - - -	1810	2374	391
South Tidworth - - -	2170	2149	254
Shipton Bellinger - - -	2350	1580	278
Quarley - - - - -	3070	1448	191
Grately - - - - -	980	1217	141
Amport - - - - -	3460	4004	771
Fyfield - - - - -	2210	1188	236
Monkton - - - - -	960	1276	293
Abbott's Anne - - - -	2190	2978	619
Chilbolton - - - - -	2830	2725	359
Wherwell - - - - -	4650	3849	664
Goodworth Clatford - -	3390	2207	413
Upper Clatford - - -	970	2669	620

THE pleasant and compact town of *Andover* is situated at the head of the canal known by its name, and near the source of the Anton, the principal tributary of the Test, hence its name which denotes a passage of the Anton, or Ande, as it is called in old writings. The town is of an antiquity anterior to the Norman Conquest, as we find, that in the year 994 here a treaty was made between Ethelred the Unready, King of England, and Anlaf, King of Normandy, by which the latter engaged never again to come to England in a hostile manner, and received the sacrament in the church in confirmation of his promise, which he ever afterwards religiously observed.

In the Domesday Book Andover is recorded as a royal manor not distributed into hides. Two ploughlands were held by the king in demense, and sixty-two villagers, thirty-six borderers, three freedmen, and six servants employed twenty-four ploughs. There is no mention of a church, but contained six mills which paid a rent of 72s. 6d. eighteen acres of meadow, and woods which furnished 100 hogs for the panage. An Act of incorporation is said to have been granted to the inhabitants by Henry II. and confirmed by Richard I. The earliest charter in the possession of the corporation is one granted by King John in 1206, but that under which the town was till recently governed was one granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1600. The borough sent representatives to all the Parliaments of Edward I. but made no return after the 1st of Edward II. till the 27th of Elizabeth, since which period it has continued to send two members; but, till the passing of the Reform Act, the franchise was confined to the corporation. The town consists principally of three long streets, of a remarkable cleanly appearance, well paved and lighted, and plentifully supplied with water.

The church is a handsome and spacious edifice, rebuilt at the sole expence of the late Rev. Dr. Goddard, formerly head master of Winchester College, and subsequently vicar of Andover. The old church, which consisted of a nave and aisles, chancel and transept on the north, with a tower rising at the intersection, was an ancient structure with a fine semicircular arched doorway ornamented with zigzag mouldings at the west-end. This was pulled down about seven years since, and on the site a new church was erected, from the tower of which was to rise a spire that should rival that of Salisbury. Unfortunately, before the completion, the side walls fell in when the present edifice was commenced. The material used is free stone, and the style is Early English in imitation of that of Salisbury Cathedral, with details similar to those to be seen in York Minster. It is a cruciform structure, with aisles to the nave and

chancel, it possesses a handsome tryfordium altar, over which is the east window filled with stained glass, bearing appropriate designs and of exquisite workmanship, and is in the interior fifty feet in height, and nearly one hundred in length. The tower is at the west-end, where is also the principal entrance. A house, late the residence of the Rev Dr. Goddard, near the church is to be the future parsonage, and was left by him for that purpose. The present vicarage and other houses adjoining the churchyard, held under Winchester Collège, are to be pulled down for the purpose of enlarging the ground. The living is a vicarage with the chapelry of Foxcote annexed, of the annual value of £343, in the patronage of the warden and fellows of Winchester Collège, who are the impropriators of the great tythes. The church formerly belonged to the abbey of St. Florence in Anjou, and was a cell to that foundation, but upon the dissolution of the Alien Priories, the advowson and great tythes were conferred on Winchester Collège. Near the church there formerly stood an hospital for brethren and sisters, founded as early as the reign of Henry III. and was suppressed at the Reformation. Andover also contains places of worship for Independents, Baptists, and Wesleyans, and a Meeting House for the Society of Friends.

The Town Hall, which stands in the centre of the High street, is a handsome building of stone, surmounted by a cupola. It was erected in 1825 at the expence of £7000, towards which the then members of the borough Sir John Pollen, Bart. and T. A. Smith, esq. subscribed each £1000. On the ground-floor is the market-place, over which is the council room for corporate purposes, and a hall for holding the Sessions of the borough. The corporation consists of a mayor, four aldermen, and twelve councillors, but the borough is not divided into wards. The borough possesses a court of Quarter Sessions, and Court Leets are held at Raster and Michaelmas, and formerly had a court of Record for debts and damages under £40, which was held every Monday

under an Act passed in the 41st of Elizabeth, but which has fallen into disuse.

Andover has given its name to one of the hundreds of the county probably from the time of Alfred the Great, and also forms one of its divisions, and here the County Magistrates hold a court of Petty Sessions for the neighbouring district every Monday. It is the centre of a Poor Law Union, comprising twenty-eight parishes in Hampshire and four in Wiltshire, and a polling-place for North Hants. The principal market is on Saturday and there is a smaller one on Wednesday. The fairs are on Mid Lent Friday and Saturday, Old May Day, and the 16th and 17th of November, for horses, cattle, cheese, leather, and hops.

Andover Grammar School was founded by John Hanson in 1582, and further endowed under the will of R. Kemis in 1611, of which the corporation are the governors, and which has an income of £20, exclusive of payments for repairs and taxes. At the period of the investigation of the charities there were ten boys of the town of Andover who were instructed in classical learning at £2 2s. per annum, in addition to which the master was allowed to receive boarders and other pay scholars. Pollen's School was founded under the will of John Pollen, esq. one of the representatives of the borough, and ancestor of the present Sir John Pollen, and it was intended for the education of twenty poor children in the principles of the Established Church, and has an income of £10, derived from a rent-charge settled on the founder's estate. There is also an endowed school at Hatherden, founded under the will of J. Sambourn, esq. for the education of the poor children of the hamlets of Wildham and Hatherton, of which the annal income is £30, and although the instruction prescribed is merely *reading*, twenty-four children are taught reading, writing and arithmetic. The National School was founded in 1813, and in 1818 the Rev. Dr. Goddard built a spacious school-room at his own expense and at his death bequeathed £100 for the endow-

ment of the same, in addition to which he left the interest of £1000 to be given to the poor of the parish attending church.

A hospital for six old men was founded by the above mentioned John Pollen, esq. and endowed with an annual rent-charge of £50. Andover possesses several minor charities, consisting of Alms houses for the aged poor, with annual and quarterly distributions of bread, money, blankets, clothing, &c. besides lands which yield the annual sum of £16, for the repairs of the church. In the neighbourhood there are several ancient encampments; that of Bury Hill, about two miles south of the town is large, and must have been remarkably strong, whilst several Roman remains have also been discovered within the boundaries of the borough.

Foxcote is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being assessed at three hides, containing four ploughlands, and being worth seventy shillings, and as being held by Walleran the king's huntsman. The church, which is a chapelry annexed to the vicarage of Andover has recently been repaired and beautified at the expense of the late Rev. Dr. Goddard.

The parish of *Knight's Enham* to the north, which from time immemorial has constituted a portion of the Parliamentary borough of Andover, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being held by two officers of the king, and was assessed at three hides; and that the monks of Winchester had a pledge or mortgage of £12 left them by some person who was then dead. The church, which is an ancient structure, was enlarged in 1832; the living is a rectory, in the patronage of Queen's College, Oxford, of the gross value of £247. The revenues of the school on the National system in this parish have been increased, by the school having been incorporated with one founded and endowed under the will of the Rev. D. Dewar in 1790, with an income of £26 10s. for the purpose of educating 25 children of Enham, and the adjoining hamlets of Little London and Woodhouse. Since the incorporation the whole of the

poor children of the parish and hamlets, usually about 50 in number, are taught on the National system, whilst the income is increased by voluntary contributions. In addition to the establishment of the school, the poor of this parish are indebted to the same munificent gentleman for the annual sum of £25, which he directed to be distributed in meat and drink among them.

To the north-west of Andover there are two parishes of the name of Penton, namely *Penton Mewsey* and *Penton Grafton*, or as it is more generally known Weyhill, one held by the powerful Earl Roger and the other by the abbey of Greistone in Normandy, rendered by corruption Grafton. Both manors, contained a church, but neither a mill, one was valued at £5 and the other at £3.

The only thing remarkable in Penton Mewsey, the most northerly of the two parishes, is its ancient church which has lately been restored under the direction of Mr. O. B. Carter, of Winchester. At its west-end there is a curious bell turret, of considerable height and of very elegant workmanship. The Vandals of either the last or preceding century being fearful that the bell would rust by being exposed to the weather, encased the beautiful specimen of antiquity in a framework, ugly to the sight, and injurious to the sound of the bells. This piece of post-Reformation-reform was removed in 1823 by the present rector, who has the patronage of the living, which is of the gross annual value of £320.

Penton Grafton is a rectory of the annual value of £522, in the patronage of the provost and fellows of Queen's College, Oxford, on whom it was conferred by Charles I. Among the individuals who have held the manor may be named the illustrious in song—the day-star of English poesy—Geoffrey Chaucer.

The annual fair on Weyhill which commences on the 10th of October was, till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, no more than a revel held on the Sunday preceding the festival of the saint to whom the parish church is dedi-

cated, namely—St. Michael. In the year 1599, her Majesty granted a charter to the bailiff and corporation of Andover, in which she conferred on them the right of holding this fair, which charter was confirmed by Charles II. The mayor of Andover has the jurisdiction of the fair and holds a court of *pie poudre* for the redress of grievances and the settlement of disputes, and receives two-pence for each booth or standing. The fair commences on the 10th of October with the sale of sheep, of which 150,000 have sometimes been disposed of on that day. The following day, old Michaelmas, is principally devoted to the engaging of agricultural labourers for parishes situated in the north-eastern portion of Hampshire and the adjoining parts of Wiltshire. Here may be seen hundreds of youthful rustics anxious to obtain a new service for the ensuing year; the carters may be known by plaited whip-cord, the shepherds by a piece of wool, and the threshers by a wheat-ear placed in their hats. On the next day the sale of the principal staple of the fair—namely, hops—commences, of which many thousand pockets are exhibited. There are different places appropriated for the hops; the spot occupied by those of Farnham, which invariably realise the highest price, bears the honoured designation of the “Row.” In addition to sheep and hops, a vast number of horses are sold here, together with a large quantity of cheese, clothes, and various wares. As the fair lasts six or seven days, and at a late period of the year, the inclemency of the weather has been provided against by the erection of permanent houses, built of mud and covered with thatch. As far back as the beginning of the last century, Weyhill fair was one of the most important fairs in the kingdom, and in the *Magna Britannia*, published in 1720, it is stated that this fair is reckoned as large as any one in England for many commodities, and for sheep indisputably the biggest, the farmers coming out of the north, south, and east to buy Dorsetshire ewes. The fair has not lost its high station, its sale of hops is not

equalled, whilst it is attended by persons from almost every part of England.

Appleshaw, the adjoining parish to the north-west, is also best known for its sheep fairs, held on May 23rd, October 9th, and November 4th. The present church was erected in 1832, at the expense of £1300, and the living is annexed to the vicarage of Ampport.

Kimpton to the south-east is mentioned in the Domesday Book as Chementune, but possessed neither church nor mill. The living is a rectory in the patronage of the Rev. C. Randolph, of the gross annual value of £567.

South Tidworth, on the borders of Wiltshire, is so called to distinguish it from the parish of North Tidworth in that county. The manor is mentioned in the Domesday Book by the name of Todeorde, as being held by two servants of the Conqueror, and as being worth £60. The living is a rectory in the patronage of T. A. Smith, esq., M.P. of Tidworth House, the tythes of which have been commuted at £398, in addition to which there is a glebe of the value of £40.

Tidworth House has been the seat of the family of the present proprietor for several centuries. About twenty years since Mr. Smith pulled down the old house, and erected, on the same site, the present handsome and spacious mansion with its extensive appurtenances after his own plan. A peculiarity in the house is the general use of slate to what ever it can be applied both for useful and general purposes, as chimney pieces, hearths, cisterns, tables, &c. The park contains about four hundred acres, and the vicinity of the mansion is ornamented by stately timber, and the other parts diversified by small groups and single trees. The parish church formerly stood within its boundary, but has been removed.

Shipton Bellinger, the adjoining parish to the south, is a vicarage of the annual value of £172, in the gift of T. A. Smith, esq. At the period of the Norman Conquest, Shipton, then called Sceptune, gave its name

to one of the hundreds of the county. The manor, though small, contained a church, and was held by Alured de Merleburg, but at present forms part of the possessions of the dean and chapter of Winchester, who here hold a Court Leet in the month of May.

Quarley, another border parish to the south is a rectory in the patronage of St. Catherine's Hospital, London, with the tythes commuted at £330. Quarley Mount is an ancient encampment, situated on the summit of a ridge. On the south the works are quadruple, the outer trenches are 60 paces asunder, and from the second to the third the space measures 36 paces, and is supposed to have been the opposing camp to that of Danebury, but as to the period and occasion historians are silent. Here is an endowed school, for the poor children of the parish to be instructed in reading the Scriptures, and in the catechism of the Church of England, with an income of £15 4s. founded under the will of the Rev. Dr. Sheppard in 1802.

Grately, to the south-east, was a place of importance during the reigns of our monarchs of the Saxon line. King Athelstan had here a palace, and at one period Grately possessed five churches. The living is a rectory of the gross annual value of £315, in the patronage of the Rev. J. Constable.

The parish of *Amport*, formerly written Anneport, is to the north-west of the last mentioned, and although its name does not occur in the Domesday Book, mention is made of its tythings, Cholderton and Sarson, the former of which contained as many as four mills. The living is a vicarage, endowed with the great tythes, with that of Appleshaw annexed, in the patronage of the dean and chapter of Chichester, of the gross annual value of £1006.

Amport House is the seat of the Premier Marquis of England, William Powlett, Marquis of Winchester and Earl of Wiltshire. The family of the Paulets, Poulets, or Powletts, are of Norman extraction; their common ancestor, Hugh de Port, came to England with William

the Conqueror, and obtained from that monarch no less than forty manors situated within this county. One of his descendents assumed the name of St. John, and was summoned to Parliament by the title of Lord St. John of Basing. In the reign of Henry VIII. the male line became extinct, and Sir William Pawlett of a Somersetshire family succeeded to the estates in right of his grandmother, the daughter and sole heiress of the last lord. He was the Comptroller and Treasurer of the Household of that monarch, obtained a portion of the church plunder, and was elevated to the peerage by the old family title. Upon the accession of Edward VI. he was made Lord High Treasurer of England, and created Earl of Wiltshire and Marquis of Winchester, and obtained as a creation fee the royal grant that the corporation of Winchester should pay him annually the sum of 100 marks (£33 6s. 8d.), for the lands held by them of the crown, and which is still duly paid. His conduct in the successive changes which took place in the reigns of Henry VIII. Edward VI. Mary and Elizabeth may have given birth to the story of the vicar of Bray, being in favour with, and in office under, all those sovereigns, and it is said that being asked by good Queen Bess how he managed to sustain his high station and the royal favour amidst so many changes in church and state, his answer was, "Because, Madame, I have been a willow and not an oak."

Mention has been made of the gallant defence of Basing House in the Parliamentary war, by his descendant the sixth Marquis, whose son disgusted with the base ingratitude of Charles II. and the arbitrary conduct of James II. assumed the character of one who had lost his wits. He danced, hawked or hunted a great part of the day, went to bed before noon and constantly sat at table all night. He went to dinner at six in the evening, and his meal lasted till six or seven the next morning, during which time he ate, drank, smoked, talked or listened to music. The company that dined with him were at liberty to rise and amuse themselves,

or take a nap whenever they were so disposed, but the dishes and bottles were all the while standing on the table. He was, however, mixed up with the politics of the day, and rendered such assistance to the Revolution that he was by William III. created Duke of Bolton. His son and successor filled several important offices of state under William III. and Queen Anne, as did his grandson under George I. and George II. This last noticed nobleman married the celebrated Lavena Fenton, the original *Polly*, in "the Beggars Opera." Henry, the sixth duke, died without male issue in 1798, by which the title of Duke of Bolton became extinct, but was succeeded as Marquis of Winchester, Earl of Wiltshire and Lord St. John, of Basing, by George Pawlett, esq. of Amport House, grandfather to the present marquis; but the family estates, the entail of which had been cut off by the duke, descended to his daughter, married to Thomas Orde, esq. who assumed the name of Powlett and was afterwards created Baron Bolton.

The adjoining parish of *Thruxton* is a rectory, of the gross annual value of £457, patron and incumbent the Rev. Donald Baines. Within the parish, Roman pavement nearly perfect was discovered in 1823.

The small parish of *Fifield* to the north, is called Fiffhide in the Domesday Book, the manor of which contained five ploughlands, a church, and sixty-two acres of meadow, and was worth 100s. Near the hamlet of Redenham, is Redenham House, the seat of Sir John Pollen, late member for Andover.

Monxton, the parish to the south-east, probably at the period of the Norman Conquest was included in the manor of Anne, and derives its name from its clerical holders, the monks of Winchester. The living is a rectory, in the gift of the provost and fellows of King's College, Cambridge, the tythes of which have been commuted at £340, with a glebe of the value of £104.

The next parish in the same direction, *Abbott's Anne*, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as two distinct manors, one called Anne, and the other Anna. The

former was divided between the King, Hugh de Port, Ralph de Mortimer, and Gozelines de Cornelies, and contained sixteen ploughlands, one church, belonging to the abbey of Cornelies in Normandy, three mills, and was worth £31. Of the portion held by Ralph de Mortimer it is stated that it had been held by a brother of Edric, on condition that he behaved well to Edric, or gave them to any one else. The manor of Anna, which probably constitutes the tything of Little Ann, was held principally by the monks of Winchester, whose portion included nine ploughlands, and three mills worth, while the portion held by the abbey of Wherwell amounted to no more than three ploughlands valued at 40s.

The church is a substantial brick edifice, with stone quoins, and possesses a noble tower; and the living is a rectory, of the gross annual value of £840, in the patronage of Miss Borrough. At a short distance from the church there were discovered a few years since some remains of what is believed to be a Roman Villa, but is more probably the site of a cell belonging to the abbey of Cornelies, which receives confirmation from the fact that the field is still known by the name of Monaser Field.

Further to the east, and on the banks of the Anton, we have the parishes of *Upper Clatford*, and Lower or *Godworth Clatford*. The manor of Clatford is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being held by the king, and as containing three mills, as is also Godworth Clatford, now a tything in Lower Clatford, as belonging to the nuns of Wherwell. Upper Clatford is a rectory, in the patronage of the Rev. E. Froud, the tythes of which have been commuted at £525, with a glebe comprising thirty-eight acres. Here is a paper manufactory, and also a very extensive iron foundery, at which an immense quantity of agricultural implements are manufactured. Godworth Clatford is a vicarage, in the patronage of Colonel Iremonger, of Wherwell Park, the impropiator of the great tythes, of the value of £180.

Here is a school endowed by the late Rev. Lascelles Iremonger, Prebendary of Winchester, with £1000.

At the junction of the Anton with the Test, but on its opposite or southern bank we have the village of Chilbolton; in the church of which are certain documents that state that the manor was given by King Athelstan to the Cathedral of Winchester, in commemoration of the overthrow, in single combat, of Colbrand the Danish giant by the renowned Guy Barl of Warwick, in the immediate neighbourhood of that city. This memorable combat is unnoticed by our English historians in general, and even Dr. Milner, in his history of Winchester, doubts the statements of the monkish writers on the subject, whilst the facts narrated are improbable in themselves, and at variance with the established events of the reign of Athelstan. It is, however, probable that Athelstan granted to the church the manor in question, for in the Domesday Book, compiled within 150 years after the supposed combat, Chilbolton was held by the Bishop of Winchester, and is stated to have been always abbey land. At that time it was assessed at five hides, of which two ploughlands were held in demesne, and eleven villagers and eleven borderers employed seven ploughs, contained a church, a mill let at fifteen shillings, and thirty acres of meadow, the value of the whole manor being £15. The patronage of the rectory is still retained by the Bishop of Winchester, and is of the gross annual value of £627. The village consists of a long straggling street, at the north-end of which is situated the church, an ancient and interesting edifice, consisting of a nave, with aisles separated from each other by clustered columns. At the west-end is a tower, to which a spire in the late Norman style has been added. The architecture is of the decorative character, with several perpendicular windows.

On the opposite of the river we have the parish and village of *Wherwell*, where previous to the Reformation stood a Benedictine Abbey, more remarkable for the circumstances of its foundation than for any event

connected with the establishment. According to William of Malmesbury, but who is not supported by other ancient writers, King Edgar having become a widower in the year 993, commissioned his favourite Ethelwold to visit Ordgar Earl of Devonshire, and report his opinion of his daughter Elfrida, who was famed for her beauty and accomplishments. The beauty of the lady induced Ethelwold to betray his trust; he wooed and married her, and informed his master that though she might grace the house of a subject, she did not become the splendour of a throne. Edgar was dissatisfied with his favourite's answer, and persisted in visiting the bride; but Ethelwold fearful of the consequences, disclosed the whole transaction to his wife and conjured her to conceal her beauty from the eyes of the king. Elfrida, on the contrary, determined to revenge the injury inflicted on her by being deprived of the regal dignity, received the king in her gayest attire, and employed every attraction to engage his heart, and Edgar left her, bent on revenge. He concealed his purpose for a convenient season, when hunting with Ethelwold in Wherwell or Harewood forest, he ran his spear through his body and killed him, and soon after married his widow.

In commemoration of these events an obelisk has been erected in the neighbouring forest of Harewood, bearing this inscription :—

“About the year of our Lord 963, upon this spot, beyond the time of memory, called *Dead Man's Plack*, tradition reports that Edgar, surnamed the peaceable, King of England, in the ardour of youth, love and indignation, slew with his own hands Earl Ethelwold, owner of the forest, of Harewood, in resentment of the Earl's having basely betrayed his royal confidence, and perfidiously married his intended bride, the beauteous Elfrida, daughter of Ordgar, Earl of Devonshire, afterwards wife of King Edgar and by him mother of King Ethelred II, which Queen Elfrida after Edgar's death murdered his eldest son King Edward the Martyr, and founded the nunery of Wherwell.”

The second charge against Elfrida, namely the murder of her son-in-law, Edward the Martyr, to make way for her own son Ethelred, is better substantiated, and it is said that in contrition for that crime she founded the abbey of Amesbury and Wherwell, in the latter of which she took the veil and was the first abbess.

Its possessions at the period of the Norman Conquest consisted of the manor and village of Wherwell, the manors of Tuckington, or Tufton, Goodworth Clatford, Little Anne, Middleton or Longparish, and Bullington, besides which it held in the city of Winchester thirty-one messuages, and a mill which paid forty-eight shillings. The manor of Wherwell was very extensive, as in addition to four ploughlands retained in the hands of the abbey, five villagers, twelve borderers, twenty-five freemen, and ten servants occupied ten ploughlands. There were also three mills, sixty-five acres of meadow, and woods which furnished twenty-five hogs. Belonging to the church of the abbey, were the now sinecure prebends of Leckford, Wherwell and Longparish. Pope Gregory IX. (1228) confirmed to the abbess and nuns all their lands, tythes, and churches that they then had, or for the future should obtain, and exempted them from paying for their own cattle, allowing them also the privilege to receive and retain women at their own disposal, to elect their abbess, have a free burying ground, and to celebrate divine service privately at the time of a general interdict.

At its dissolution its annual revenues amounted to £339 8s. 7d. according to Dugdale, and £403 12s. 10d. according to Speed. Henry VIII. granted the abbey and its possessions to Sir Thomas West, afterwards Lord Delaware, which since that period have been divided. Colonel Iremonger, of Wherwell Park, is the proprietor of the manors of Wherwell and Goodworth Clatford, and his house occupies the site of the ancient abbey. The parish church is a venerable edifice, but the village lies low, and is long and straggling.

The living is a vicarage with those of Bullington and Tufton annexed, with a net income of £301, in the patronage of Colonel Iremonger, as owner of the sinecure rectory, which was a prebend in the abbey, the tythes of which have been commuted at £595. The tything of Fullerton, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book as a separate manor belonging to the New Monastery at Winchester and containing a mill, is tythe free.

SKETCH XVI.

STOCKBRIDGE AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Stockbridge	1220	1911	937
Leckford	2530	1719	231
Longstock	2610	2851	497
Lower Wallop	5920	5540	949
Upper Wallop	5920	3630	481
Broughton	4500	4401	1009
Houghton	1790	2855	458
Bossington	1500	731	60
West Tytherley	4400	1828	469
East Tytherley	1560	1652	335
King's Sombourne	7100	4826	1125
Little Sombourne	1450	943	116
Ashley	2580	1179	102

THE market town and defunct borough of *Stockbridge*, situated on the eastern bank of the Test, and on the high road from Winchester to Salisbury, is remarkable for its number of bridges and public houses. It was here that Robert Earl of Gloucester, the natural brother of the empress Matilda, was taken prisoner in the year 1441. The castle of Winchester, in which the empress had taken refuge, was besieged by the partizans of King Stephen; from which, the want of provisions, and their not being able to face the enemy in the field rendered escape absolutely necessary for her safety, which was effected on a Sunday morning, when the vigilance of the enemy was relaxed by the duties of religion, her brother Robert with a number of knights forming her escort. At Stockbridge they were overtaken by the royalists, but the gallantry of her followers enabled the empress to pursue her flight in safety till she reached Devizes. The remainder of her friends were either slain

or made prisoners, and among the rest the Earl, who had taken refuge in the church.

Stockbridge returned members to Parliament from the commencement of the reign of Queen Elizabeth to the passing of the Reform Act, and is well known in Parliamentary history for the tactics practised at its elections. As far back as the reign of William and Mary, the borough was threatened with disfranchisement, and one of its members unseated for bribery, whilst the notorious corruption of the electors is thus described by Gay in a poem entitled "A Journey to Exeter:"

Sad melancholy every visage wears;
What! no election come in seven long years?
Of all our mayors shall Snow alone
Be by Sir Richard's (Steele) dedication known?
Our streets no more with tides of ale shall float,
Nor cobblers feast six years upon a vote.

The same character the borough maintained till the last, as at the Lent Assizes at Winchester, 1829, it was stated in evidence, that for more than thirty years certain electors received each £60 at every succeeding election, known as "the old thing."

The town consists principally of one long street, near the middle of which is the town hall, a plain brick building, erected in 1810. Stockbridge is a borough by prescription, under a bailiff and a constable, who are elected by a jury at the court leet held annually on Easter Wednesday. The church, which is situated at the entrance of the town from Winchester, is an uninteresting edifice, with a low, heavy square tower, and the living is annexed to the vicarage of King's Sombourn. The Independents have a school in the town.

Stockbridge has gained some celebrity from its trout fishing, and of late years it has become the Newmarket of Hampshire, whilst the surrounding gentry are known for their fondness for sylvan sports. It has been generally supposed that the town took its name from its

stock or number of bridges, but such is not the case, as in the ancient writings it is called *Stoke-bridge*.

The adjoining parish to the north is *Leckford*, mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to St. Mary's Abbey, Winchester, and as containing a mill and a half. *Leckford* is a sinecure rectory in the patronage of St. John's College, Oxford, the great tythes of which have been commuted at £400, and which is always held by a fellow of that establishment. The living is a vicarage in the gift of the rector, of the annual value of £142. The church is a small but ancient edifice.

On the opposite bank of the Test we have the straggling village *Longstock*, with its church of Norman foundation. This is probably the place called *Stoches* in the Domesday Book, mentioned as being situated in Broughton hundred, belonging to St. Mary's Abbey, Winchester, and as containing a church and mill. The great tythes and patronage of the vicarage formerly belonged to Mottisfont Priory, and are now the property of Sir John Barker Mill. By the recent commutation the impropriate tythes have been returned at £433, and the vicarial tythes at £315.

Further westward we have the parishes of *Over* or *Upper*, and *Nether* or *Lower Wallop*. There are two manors mentioned in the Domesday Book by the name of Wallop both held by the king, one of which contained fifteen ploughlands, nine of which were held by thirty villagers and thirty-nine borderers; a church, a chapel, three mills, and woods which furnished forty hogs, together with the right to the third penny out of six hundreds, and had a right of pasture and pannage (feeding cattle and pigs) in all the woods belonging to those six hundreds. The other contained ten ploughlands, three mills, besides woods and meadows. The derivation of the name according to Camden is from *Well-hop*, signifying a pretty well on the side of a hill.

Upper Wallop, the most northerly of the two parishes, is a rectory of the annual value of £820, in the patronage of the Earl of Portsmouth, whose ancestors were

settled here previous to the Conquest, and who formerly held the manor, and derived from it the name of Wallop, which has since been changed to Fellowes. The church is an ancient structure, and contains several curious monuments. In the parish the Wallop stream, or as it is locally known from the length of its course, "the nine mile water," a tributary to the Test, takes its rise, on which, in the time of William the Conqueror, were nine mills, whilst at present there is only one. Could it be proved that the ancient mills possessed the capabilities and powers of those of modern erection, it would be strong evidence in support of the theory of the writers who contend that the south of England was, at the time of the Conquest, more thickly populated than it is at present, as not only in this district, but throughout the whole county, there were more mills at that time than at present. But that they must have been small is apparent, as they were in general erected over insignificant streams, with an inadequate supply of water to grind a large quantity of corn, and with machinery rude and of little power. The state of society at that period sufficiently accounts for the number of mills; there was little communication either between town or villages with each other; families were isolated; there was but little trade, whilst a mill was considered as necessary a requisite to any abbey or mansion as a brewery or bakehouse.

The parish of *Nether* or *Lower Wallop* contains the long straggling village of Lower Wallop, and the hamlet of Middle Wallop situated on the high road from Salisbury to London. The church is an ancient structure, the chancel of which has recently been rebuilt, and the whole restored at considerable expense. It contains a monumental brass to Lady Gore, an abbess of the date 1434, and also one to a mitred abbot, and in the churchyard there is a pyramidal monument to Dr. Douce, a benefactor of this and the neighbouring parishes. The living is a vicarage of the annual value of £346, in the patronage of the sub-chanter and vicars-

choral of York minster, who are the appropriators of the great tythes, let on lease for lives to the Rev. Walter Blount of Wallop House, a picturesque mansion situated at a short distance from the church. Here is an endowed school founded under the will of the above-named Dr. Douce in 1759, with an income of £16, in which twenty poor children are taught reading, writing and accounts. In this parish is situated the well known hill fort called Danebury, an elevated ridge, and consists of an extensive area surrounded by a deep fosse, in good preservation. The entrance is by a winding course protected by a high bank. At a short distance to the westward is an outwork for the defence of that side, but on the east and north sides where the ground is more steep, there is only one ditch. There are several barrows near this encampment called King Canute's, but they are probably of an earlier date. Antiquarians are divided as to what period these hill-forts, of which there are several in the west of Hampshire, as at Tatchbury, Nursling, Worldbury, Quarley, and the hill in question, besides others of less note, belong. Some contend they are British, others Roman, Saxon or Danish. The western portion of Hampshire and the eastern of the neighbouring county of Wilts, was the scene of several severe conflicts between the Britons and the Saxon invaders 1,200 years ago, and the kingdom of Wessex, which afterwards included the whole of the counties which form the present western circuit, was at the time of Cerdic the founder of that monarchy, confined to the counties of Hants and Berks, the Salisbury Avon being for some time the line of demarcation between the invading Saxons and the defending Britons, and which renders it probable that they are either of British or Saxon construction, or perchance both. Danebury gave its name to a small manor in the reign of William the Conqueror, under the denomination of Danebrige. On the down to the south the meeting of the Bibury club and the Stockbridge races take place in the month of June annually.

The parish to the south is *Broughton*, which Camden has identified with the Roman station *Brige*, a theory which has been supported by all subsequent antiquarians, who have established it as a fact that here was the intermediate station between *Venta* (Winchester) and *Old Sarum*. The track of the road, commencing at the west-gate of the former city, passed by *Pit-field*, *Garlick-farm*, *Sombourne*, *Horsebridge*, *Bossington mill*, *Buckholt-warren*, *Winterslow*, *Pettenfield* and *Down*; it may still be traced, and is the nearest route by several miles from Winchester to *Salisbury*.

The village or town of *Broughton* contains, in addition to the church, a Gothic edifice consisting of a nave and side aisles, several dissenting chapels, that of the Baptists having been first erected and endowed in 1690, also several respectable inns and shops of a superior kind to what are generally found in rural districts. The living is a rectory in the patronage of *C. B. Wall, esq.* the tythe commutation of which, including that of *Bossington*, amounts to £770, in addition to which there are thirty-four acres of glebe. There is no mention of *Broughton* in the *Doomsday Book*, unless it is the manor written *Breston*, which is stated to be situated in *Brocton* (*Broughton*) Hundred, and appears to have adjoined the manor of *Wallop*. It was held by the king, and contained six and a half ploughlands, three mills, fifty acres of meadow, and woods which furnished three hogs, the rent of which was at that time £105 12s. 2d. *Broughton* possesses several excellent charities, the most important of which is the school founded in 1601, under the will of *T. Douse, esq.* and enlarged in 1747 under the will of *Dr. Croft*. The income of the school is £68 17s. and forty boys of *Broughton* and of *Bossington* are taught reading, writing, and accounts, agreeably to the directions of the founder.

The parish of *Bossington* abuts that of *Broughton* to the south-east, in which a new church was erected in 1840, by *J. M. Elves, esq.* of *Bossington House*. It is a chapelry annexed to the rectory of *Broughton*, and at

the late commutation its tythes were returned at the value of £140.

Between the parishes of Broughton and Bossington and the Wiltshire downs, there are two parishes of the name of *Tytherley*, called in the Domesday Book Tidelege, the two chapels of which belonged to a monastic establishment at Mottisfont. East Tytherley is a donative curacy, with a net income of £40, patron and impropriator, J. L. Goldsmith, esq. The church is a plain ancient edifice with lancet windows, and contains several curious monuments, and in the aisle there are two effigies with full length crosses, supposed to represent priests. There is in the parish a school endowed under the will of S. Rolle, esq. 1786, of which the lord of the manor, the curate of West Tytherley, and the rectors of Mottisfont and East Tytherley, with the right of appointing the master and mistress, are the governors. By the report of the Charity Commissioners it appears, that the revenue is derived from the rent of about 180 acres of land, a rent charge, and money invested in the funds, producing in the whole £208.10s. The education prescribed is reading, writing and accounts, working and knitting, church catechism, and instruction in the principles of the Church of England, and the school to consist of ten children of this parish, to be educated, clothed, and supplied with bread and cheese on coming to school, and as many as the income would be sufficient for those of the parishes of East Tytherley and Lookerley. At the time of the investigation twelve of the children were clothed and supplied with portions of bread and cheese, and all poor children of the two parishes who applied (average number sixty-five) were taught reading, writing and accounts, working and knitting, &c.

West Tytherley is a rectory in the patronage of C. B. Wall, esq. of Norman Court, of the gross annual value of £398. The church has recently been rebuilt, chiefly at the expense of the lord of manor. The stately residence of Norman Court is said to derive its name from being the spot where William the Conqueror in his

progress to the west of England, received the submission of the Saxon chiefs of Wilts and Somerset. The present mansion was erected about a century ago on the site of the ancient manor house by the grandfather of the present T. Thistlewayte, esq. of Southwick, who sold this estate to the father of the present proprietor, by whom it has been much enlarged and improved. The park consists of about five thousand acres, and is famed for the beauty and magnitude of its beech trees, and the estate comprises about eight thousand acres of which three thousand are in Wiltshire. Mr. Baring Wall has established at his house a circulating library for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Tytherleys, and an annual fete held in his park in the month of September.

The parish of *Houghton*, to the north-east of that of Broughton, occupies the angle formed by the junction of the Wallop stream with the Test, consists of 249 acres, and contains a population of 458. The village, which is long and straggling, is situated on the banks of the Test, on the lower road through Mottisfont from Romsey to Stockbridge. Houghton is mentioned three times in the Domesday Book, and though the several notices are not reconcileable with each other, it is clear that it was an extensive and valuable manor, though lacking those usual appendages—a church and a mill. The living is a rectory in the patronage of the Bishop of Winchester of the gross annual value of £483.

On the opposite side of the Test is the extensive parish of *King's Sombourne*, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book as a royal manor, hence its prefix, and as being of an unusual extent, probably including the adjoining parishes of Little Sombourne and Stockbridge. It contained two churches, four mills, 25 ploughlands, and a large quantity of water meadow.

John of Gaunt, "time honour'd Lancaster," is stated to have had a palace here; which supposition is supported by the fact, that a portion of the parish known as the Old Park and 400 acres are at the present time held under the crown, as a parcel of the lands belonging to the Duchy of Lancaster, and confirmed by the ap-

pearance of a large mansion in ruins, the vicinity of which abounds with noble yew trees, which about this time, when the archers of England were famed through Europe from the exploits they performed at Cressy and Poitiers, were assiduously cultivated. There is near the church an embankment, which, according to tradition, was thrown up as a butt for the exercise of the archers; and within a mile distant from it there is an area of thirty acres, now meadow, which is supposed to have been a fish-pond. The architecture of the church is of the late, or transition Norman, with a decorated chancel, which contains two small brasses of priests on one slab, and in the wall a sepulchral recess, under which is a stone coffin with the figure of a priest; the head is destroyed, but the trefoil canopy remains, and round the edge of the slab there is an inscription. The tower is of wood on three sides, but the west wall of it of stone, with a Norman corbel table. The font is transition Norman octagon with shallow pointed panels; the stem surrounded by clumsy triangular shafts of a singular plan. The living is a vicarage with the chapelries of Little Sombourne and Stockbridge annexed, of the annual value of £696; patron and impropiator Sir John Barker Mill, who inherits them as forming part of the possessions of Mottisfont priory.

Little Sombourne is the adjoining parish to the north, the church of which is a small plain Early English edifice, with a round headed door and lancet windows, two of which are square-headed, but well splayed and original. There are no altar rails, but the east end of the chancel is formed into a pew, with a fire place in it. The church is covered with ivy, which finds its way into the interior. On the down, which the road from Winchester to Stockbridge traverses, there is, on the right hand, a large mount, known as Worldbury mount, evidently thrown up for a warlike purpose, surrounded by an entrenchment, containing within its limits above twenty acres. On its side facing the road, there is a figure of a white horse, cut out in imitation of the celebrated white horse of Wantage.

The parish of *Ashley*, which abuts the two last mentioned to the east, is a rectory in private patronage, the tythes of which have been commuted at £350, in addition to which there is a glebe of 40 acres. The church is essentially Norman, with some very curious features. Most of the original small windows remain, one of which is round and the others mere loops. In the west gable are openings for two bells, round-headed, with Norman imposts; one of them has the original bell remaining in it, which is a very uncommon arrangement. The chancel arch is very small, with an opening on each side, more than half as wide as the arch itself. The font is also Norman—square, on a round stem, and has a good square base. One of the bench ends has the date of 1595, and there is a curious poor's box of the same period.

SKETCH XVII.

ROMSEY AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessments.	Population.
Romsey	9310	19050	6347
Timsbury	1360	1354	223
Mitchelmersh	5440	3756	1180
Mottisfont	2270	2521	578
Lockerly	1390	1574	658
East Dean	640	907	228
Sherfield English	2490	1565	328
East Wellow	2810	1324	292
Nursling	2230	3850	958
Chilworth	1400	797	117
North Baddesley	2570	1211	302

AN antiquity as far distant as the Roman supremacy in Britain is claimed for the town of *Romsey*, but mere conjecture, unsupported by the discovery of any remains of such an early period, is the foundation on which local historians have raised their superstructure. It is far more probable that it is of Saxon foundation, and that it rose in consequence of the establishment of its famous abbey, founded at the commencement of the tenth century by Edward the Elder, the son and successor of Alfred the Great. There is a difference of opinion as to its first inmates, whether secular canons, monks, or nuns; but it is unquestioned, that it was possessed by the latter in the reign of Edgar, and that the abbey and church were at that period rebuilt by Ethelwold Bishop of Winchester. It was then dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, its members were of the order of St. Benedict, and being of royal foundation, lands and possessions were heaped upon it, whilst for several centuries its abbess was often of the Blood Royal. Among other privileges

conferred upon its superior was that of trying, and erecting a gallows for the execution of criminals, for offences committed within her jurisdiction.

At the period of the compilation of the Domesday Book, it held in Hampshire, in addition to estates in other counties, the whole of the manor of Romsey, containing eighteen ploughlands of which the abbey retained two in its own hands, sixteen being occupied by thirty villagers and fifty-eight borderers, three mills which paid 25s. and thirty-six acres of meadow, and woods which furnished forty hogs; Itchen Stoke the annual value of which was estimated at £9; Sidmanton containing three ploughlands, worth 70s.; and at Sway one ploughland worth 20s. There is a degree of uncertainty as to what number the community consisted; at an early period mention is made of 100, which might include servants and novices, but at a later date only twenty-three nuns are named. It appears probable that the abbey had sunk in importance, wealth, public estimation, and probably in character, for some centuries previous to its dissolution, as we find in that period no improvements were made in the church, and none of those exquisite specimens of art were introduced which may be seen in nearly the whole of our cathedrals and abbey churches. With the exception of the two eastern windows, the church exhibited the same appearance in the reign of Henry VIII. as it did in the reign of Henry III.

One of the royal personages connected with the abbey of Romsey was Maltida, or Good Queen Molde, the wife of Henry I, niece of Edgar Athelind, the representative of the Saxon dynasty, who was here educated, under the care of her aunt the Abbess Christian. Towards the middle of the twelfth century the abbey was governed by Mary, daughter of King Stephen. By the death of her brother William she succeeded to the inheritance of the county of Boulogne, and having privately left her convent, married a son of the then reigning Count of Flanders, to whom she bore two children. This was considered as an outrage of ecclesiastical dis-

discipline not to be tolerated by the Holy See, and the husband and wife were alike excommunicated, for ten years they defied the powers of the church, but at length were compelled to separate, but whether Mary ever returned to her convent as required by the Pope is not known. The Benedictine dames of Romsey were more than once subject to the censures of their appointed visitor, the Bishop of Winchester, as during the abbacy of Anne of Wintershill, about the year 1815, great laxity of discipline prevailed among the nuns, and it was reported that the abbess came by her death by a forced intoxication; and two hundred years later, at a visitation made by Bishop Fox, the then abbess was accused of frequent and immoderate habits of intemperance and drinking, especially at late hours of the night, and inducing the nuns by her bad example and exhortations to revel in her chamber every evening, to the hindrance of God's worship, and the defilement of their own souls; whether this charge was substantiated or not does not appear. At the period of its dissolution, in the reign of Henry VIII. the abbey possessed the whole of Romsey, with lands, mills and fisheries at Eling, Nursling, and Timsbury, also estates in Wiltshire and other counties. Its annual revenues amounted, according to Dugdale, to £538 8s. 10½d. and its site and landed possessions, with the exception of the church, for which the inhabitants paid the king £100, were granted to John Bellow and Richard Pigott, from whom they have descended to Lord Viscount Palmerston and John Willis Fleming, esq.

Soon after the suppression of the establishment, the cloisters and offices were destroyed, but the church remains in its integrity, save the removal of the Lady Chapel. It has been stated of this edifice, that it presents more clearly the outline and general aspect of a purely Norman conventual church than any building of equal dimensions in England, for although a considerable portion of the nave belongs to a later style, it has been made to harmonize with the earlier parts, which would lead to the conclusion that the dimensions and

proportions intended by the original architects are preserved throughout, and that the whole design was followed as nearly as the difference of style would permit. The church is cruciform, has a low massive tower at the intersection, which was originally open as a lanthorn, as was the tower at Winchester Cathedral, and although perfectly plain on the outside, it is ornamented in the interior with two ranges of arches. The present structure, it is supposed, was commenced in the reign of Henry II. and completed in that of Henry III. when its noble triple lancet window at the west-end was inserted. At the east-end there are two windows of the purest and best specimens of the decorated style, but those on the north-side of the church are of a perpendicular character, of different ages and designs, and were probably inserted at a recent period, and to have belonged originally to other buildings. There does not appear to have ever been an entrance at the west, nor was such necessary whilst the building was retained exclusively for the service of the Benedictine dames.

The church possesses the usual characteristics of our ancient cathedrals; its ground plan is cruciform, it can still boast of a nave, choir, transepts, side aisles, and once had a lady chapel and cloisters. In length it exceeds the cathedrals of Oxford, Bristol, Carlisle, St. Asaph and Bangor, and equals that of Ripon; but as an abbey church it had many superiors, thus till the Reformation the cathedrals of Peterborough and Gloucester were but the churches to their respective abbeys, and the neighbouring priory church of Christchurch exceeds in length the abbey church of Romsey, by seventy feet.

In various parts of the Church there are monuments and slabs in the pavement to the abbesses, who in the olden time governed the convent, and on the south side of the choir there is a plain slab, bearing this simple inscription, to the memory of the famed ancestor of the Landsdowne family:—

“ Here lays Sir William Petty.”

The quaint conceits of the seventeenth century show themselves in Romsey as well as in other churches; thus

we have the following inscription to the memory of a former possessor of the neighbouring mansion of Broadlands and his lady :—

An Epitaph vpon Iohn St. Barbe,
Esq. the sone of Henry St. Barbe,
Esq. and Grissell, his wife the
daughter of Iohn Pynsent,
Esq. he about the 42
yeares of his age—and she the
22 year of her age,
leaving fower sonnns, Henry,
Iohn, Francis, and Edward,
asleepe in the Lord.

**Earth's richest mines of pretious
dust :**

And faithful ones;
Since in her bowels rest these In one vast chain of vnyty
just,

Dead, here doe rest, yet left not earth Whose silent bones Because such righteous and their seed,

But brought fower sons to defect birth. In fame and state Shall flourish here, and shall indeed

Tryumph ore fate.

An anagram upon their names { JOHN
GRISSELL } SAINT BARBE.

BEIN SHARES IN BLEST GLORIE.

**The memory of ye. wicked shall rot, but ye. remembrance
of ye. Iust shall live for ever.**

Although this church is rather distinguished by massiveness and simplicity than by profusion of ornaments, yet its enrichment is not wanting in variety of design and delicacy of execution, and, with the exception of Winchester, it is by far the most majestic ecclesiastical pile within the county. Till within a few years, there was growing on the top of the tower a large apple tree, which bore two kinds of apples, red shanked and golden pippins. No satisfactory account has been given how the tree came there, but it had outlived several generations of men.

During the last two years the sum of £2000 raised by subscriptions, principally through the exertions of the vicar the Hon. and Rev. T. G. Noel, has been expended in alterations and in the restoration of the interior of this noble pile. The choir has been extended so as to embrace the whole of the nave as well as the two transepts. The flooring of the tower or belfry has been raised fifteen feet higher, which has brought to view the beautiful lower range of arches already spoken of. The couplet arches of the triforium of the nave are new, whilst the caps, bases, and mouldings of the columns which had been injured have been restored. The money already raised is inadequate for the completion of the good and the thorough restoration of the church of our Ladye at Romsey.

During the progress of the restorations, it was found necessary to remove a few feet a large slab of Purbeck stone, measuring nearly twelve feet in length, supposed to cover some relic of antiquity, and was found, on raising it, to have formed the massive cover of a stone coffin, containing the skeleton of a priest, in a state of preservation, considering it to have been a deposit of the 13th century, to which it was attributed. Besides several portions of the priestly dress, which plainly indicate his having been interred in his vestments, there were lying by the remains a chalice and paten of pewter metal, the latter much corroded. Near the feet also were portions of the shoes, which had separated from the decay of the sowing. The skeleton was that of a person of diminutive stature, not measuring more than five feet two or three inches. In the coffin, which is in complete preservation, was a cavity cut in the stone to receive the head, and traces of the original corpse might be traced on its sides, betokening its inmate to have been stout, although short in stature. On the slab, extending nearly to its entire length, is the impress of a floriated cross, originally inlaid in metal, from which it is presumed that the office of the deceased was that of a cross bearer in solemn processions, the quality of the

remaining vestment opposing the idea of his being a more dignified ecclesiastic.

Previous to the application of the abbey church to parochial purposes there stood, it is supposed at the north-east corner of the church-yard, a church dedicated to St. Lawrence. Originally this was no other than a chapel for the use of the servants of the abbey, as was the case at Winchester Cathedral and Hyde Abbey, but in after times was known as the parish church of Romsey. The patronage was in the abbey, who possessed the great tythes, and provided bread, wine, and wax for use in the service of the church. All traces of the church are gone, but the ancient font, now in the abbey church, belonged originally to that of St. Lawrence, as it could not be necessary for the vestals of the convent. The patronage of the living is now possessed by the dean and chapter of Winchester, and is, according to the late parliamentary returns, of the annual value of £365.

The Independent chapel adjoining an ancient gateway leading to the abbey precincts is a spacious and convenient structure; there is also in the town, chapels for the Baptists and Wesleyans, and a meeting-house for the Society of Friends.

Romsey is divided into two parishes, Romsey infra and Romsey extra, the town being included in the former, and contains a population of 1919.

The town of Romsey which is situated on the eastern bank of the Test, about seven miles north-west of Southampton, eleven south-west of Winchester, and fifteen east of Salisbury, consists of several spacious streets well paved and lighted. It gives its name to one of the hundreds, and one of the magisterial divisions of the county, it is the centre of a Poor Law Union, comprising twelve parishes, of which two are in Wiltshire, and is one of the polling places for the southern division of the county.

The town was first incorporated in the reign of James I. the charter of whom was confirmed and extended by William III. The present corporation consists of a

mayor, four aldermen, and twelve councillors but the borough does not possess a court of Quarter Session. The town-hall, situated within the ancient abbey precincts is a neat modern erection.

There are fairs on Easter Monday, August 26th and November the 8th, for horses, cattle, cheese, cloth and other articles of merchandize, and a corn market and cattle market every alternate Thursday, the tolls of which belong to Lord Palmerston, and were formerly a portion of the revenues of the abbey. Some years since Romsey was celebrated for its beer, and a great deal of business was done in the tanning and paper-making departments, but these trades have declined, but a sackng manufactory gives employment to a great number of the poor.

Romsey possesses several excellent charities, the principal of which are the Free School and Bartletts Alms-houses. The former was founded in 1718, under the will of J. Noyes, esq. and further endowed under that of Sir John St. Barbe in 1723; and provides for the education, clothing and apprenticing of thirty boys of the parishes of Romsey infra and extra, and the tythings of Ower and Wigley in the parish of Eling. Bartlett's Alms-houses, which were founded in 1692, possess an income of £200, and affords accomodation to six aged widows.

Sir William Petty, whose name has already been mentioned, was born in 1623 at Romsey, where his father carried on the business of a clothier. At the early age of twelve years he made several curious machines with his own hands in imitation of those employed in the clothing trade. His acquaintance with languages was equally uncommon, and at fifteen was master of French, Latin, and Greek. He adopted the medical profession, and at the age of twenty-seven was elected Professor of Anatomy in the University of Oxford, and two years afterwards was appointed Physician to the Army in Ireland, in which country he remained nine years, and amassed a considerable fortune. At the Restoration, he was knighted by Charles II. and

in the following year published his celebrated Treatise on Taxes and Contributions. In 1663 he constituted a double bottomed ship for the purpose of sailing against wind and tide, but this invention though generally admitted to be extremely ingenious, was not attended with sufficient success to ensure its adoption. He died the year preceeding the Revolution, and his books and manuscripts now in the possession of his descendant the Marquis of Landsdown are extremely select and valuable. Another eminent native of this town was Giles Jacob, the Author of the Law Dictionary, and of the Lives and Characters of the English Dramatic Poets. He died in 1744 at the age of 54.

Broadlands, the seat of Lord Viscount Palmerston, is situated on the east bank of the Test. The mansion, which is built of white brick ornamented with stone, has on its western front an elegant stone portico of the Ionic order with a flight of steps. The house contains a large collection of paintings by Rubens, Vandyke, Rembrandt, Titian, Salvator Rosa, Claude, Teniers, Sir Peter Lely, Sir Joshua Reynolds, and other eminent masters. From the west front a lawn descends by a gentle slope to the river, which from its winding outline presents from each apartment a varied object, and is bounded by the wooded eminences that bound the prospect on the west. The pleasure grounds comprise twenty-two acres, and the park two hundred and fifty acres, and though its general surface is flat, is diversified by clumps of trees planted at irregular distances.

The parish of *Timsbury*, which adjoins that of Romsey extra to the north, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as a manor containing three ploughlands, a mill, and fifty acres of meadow, worth 50s. The church, a diminutive structure of an early date, is built of flint, with a wooden belfry. In the chancel there is a piscina in good preservation, and two fine wainscot pews in the form of stalls. The living is a vicarage, of the value of £64, to which John Fleming, esq. and T. Chamberlayne, esq. alternately present, the latter holding the glebe land.

Mitchelmersh, the next parish on the western bank of the Test, evidently derives its name, which may be interpreted Michael's marsh, from its situation. It is not mentioned in the Domesday Book but probably belonged to the see of Winchester, as the bishop holds the patronage of the rectory, the tythes of which have been commuted at £814, in addition to which there is a glebe of the value of £80. Adjoining this parish is a small extra-parochial place called *Elden*, containing a population of 19 persons, and returned in the King's Book, (Henry VIII.) as a rectory of the value of £2. For many years the church, which is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, has been dilapidated and unfit for service.

On the opposite or western bank of the Test, is the parish of *Mottisfont*, containing the noble and spacious residence of Sir John Barker Mill, which previous to the Reformation was an Augustine Priory. It is stated in *Tanner's Notitia* that it was founded by Flambard, Prior of Christchurch and afterwards Bishop of Durham, but there are reasons for supposing that a convent existed here prior to the Norman Conquest. It is stated in the Domesday Book that the Bishop of Winchester held in the manor of Mortesfunde, one church, and six chapelries, with all the accustomed dues from the living and the dead—namely Puleorde, Brestone (Broughton), Tederlige (East Titherly), another Tiderlege (West Titherley), Dena (East Dean), and Lockerlie (Lockerly); and that there belonged to the church five hides wanting one yardland, which renders it highly probable there was at Mottisfont a religious community for the supply of the spiritual wants of this extensive district, and that the revenues of the community arose from the five hides of land. Flambard may have endowed it with additional lands on condition that it should consist of a prior and canon regulars of the order of St. Augustine, and from this may have been accounted its founder. Among the benefactors of this convent, was Queen Eleanor, the wife of Edward I. who gave divers possessions for an anniversary, and daily alms for seven poor

widows. Henry VII. obtained a bull from the Pope for its dissolution, which was not carried into effect till the following reign. At that period its revenues amounted according to Speed to £167 15s. 8d. and would now be worth more than £3000. The convent and its estates were exchanged by Henry VIII. with Lord Sandys for the manor of Chelsea, and Mottisfont was for many years the principal residence of that ancient family. At the commencement of the last century, upon the death of the last Lord Sandys, without male issue, his estates were divided amongst his six sisters, and Mottisfont fell to the share of Margaret married to Sir John Mill of Nursling, from whom the present baronet is descended. The present mansion, which occupies only a portion of the site of the ancient priory, is a very substantial building, its walls being six feet in thickness, and on the north front strengthened by buttresses, each surmounted above the parapet by a stone globe. The south front has a square paved platform at the west end, and an inclined plane of turf at the eastern extremity, and beneath are cellars that present some evident remains of the pillars and arches of the ancient monastery. The late repairs and extensive embellishments, made by the present proprietor brought to light two interesting relics. In effecting a communication between the kitchen and scullery a richly sculptured stone tracery forming the head of a doorway was discovered, as was a piscina in removing the plaster of the wall of the larder, and in digging round the house a stone coffin and human remains were found. A portion of the cloisters are still standing, and several of the conventual fish stewes still exist. In the house a curious ancient painting is preserved, and is supposed to represent two events of the "divine doctor" the celebrated Thomas Aquinas. In one compartment he is represented as receiving a visit from St. Peter and St. Paul, after having passed three days and nights in fasting and prayer, in order to discover the meaning of a particular passage in Isaiah; the other represents him as busy writing, while the Holy Spirit, in the form of a

dove, is dictating to his ear, and his friend Bonaventure observing him at the door which stands partly open. The living is a rectory, to which is annexed the chapelries of Lockerly and East Dean, the tythes of which have been commuted at £1074, in the patronage of the Rev. O. D. St. John, the present incumbent.

The parishes of *Lockerly* and *East Dean*, situated to the west of Mottisfont and on the borders of Wiltshire, are totally devoid of interesting remains. Lockerly is mentioned in the Domesday Book, as a manor held of the King by Earl Hugh, and as containing three ploughlands, a mill which paid 10s. six acres of the meadow, and woods which furnished three hogs, the whole being worth 30s.

Sherfield English to the south, another border parish, is a rectory of the gross annual value of £304, in the patronage of R. Bristow, esq.

The adjoining parish of *East Wellow*, is so called to distinguish it from the tything of West Wellow which is in Wiltshire. The church is an ancient structure, and in the portion of it known as the Hungerford chapel thirteen distempered drawings representing our Saviour and the twelve apostles were recently brought to light by the removal of the white-wash from the eastern wall. The larger figures, eight in number, are half the size of life, and the colouring of the whole is well defined. The living is a vicarage, in the patronage of W. E. Nightingale, esq. of the gross annual value of £275.

The parish of *Nursling*, or as it was till lately called Nutshalling, lies to the south of that of Romsey, on the eastern side of the Test. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to the Bishop of Winchester, and as containing eight ploughlands occupied by twenty villagers, fourteen acres of meadow, and woods which furnished ten hogs, and to be worth 100 shillings. Here are traces of an ancient encampment, but there is no account of any famous battle having been fought in the

neighbourhood. The church, which was probably erected in the twelfth century, consists of a nave, aisles, and chancel. The columns which separate the nave from the aisles, and the arches which spring from them, are of the transition Norman style, but many of the windows are of a later date. At the west-end there is a tower surmounted by a wooden spire. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of the bishop, of the net annual value of £425. Grove Place, a noble mansion, said to have been erected by Queen Elizabeth as a hunting seat, but now used as a lunatic asylum, was for a considerable period the residence of the Mills family before their succession, by marriage, to the mansion and estate at Mottisfont.

Chilworth, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as containing a church and two ploughlands, but the value of the manor appears to have been diminished from ten to four pounds in consequence of woods, which formerly belonged to it having been afforested. It afterwards formed part of the possessions of the Priory of St. Denys, but at the Reformation passed into lay hands, and at present belongs to J. W. Fleming, esq. who has also the impropriation of the great tythes and the patronage of the living, which is a donative of the annual value of £54. Here, as in many other villages, the most important erection is the church, a small, but neat and beautiful structure, rebuilt a few years since by the late patron P. Serle, esq., from which springs an elegant spire, which, although it cannot be said to dangle with the clouds, is a pleasing object from many points.

North Baddesley the adjoining parish to the north, appears to have been one of the many manors in Hampshire conferred by William the conqueror on his favourite Ralph de Mortimer. At that time it contained four ploughlands, of which two were occupied by four villagers and seven borderers. Here, in all probability, was a mansion or castle, as seven servants are mentioned, also a church, and woods which furnished ten hogs, and was valued at 60s. The family of the Mortimers,

whose names frequently appear in the pages of English history, held the estate nearly 500 years, when it passed by the marriage of Richard Earl of Cambridge with the sister of the Earl of March, the grandson of Lionel Duke of Clarence by the female line, into the possession of Richard, the father of Edward IV. Upon the accession of the latter to the English throne, Baddesley became a part of the crown property, but is at present a portion of the estates of T. Chamberlayne, esq. There are, however, lands in the parish which do not belong to that gentleman, but whether they ever formed a part of the royal manor is not known. The church is of Norman foundation, but possesses some fine specimens of the decorated and perpendicular style. In it there is a monument with a full length figure of a Knight Templar upon it, which has induced some writers to imagine that it was at *North* instead of *South* Baddesley, where the Templars had their preceptory; but there is ample evidence to show that they were mistaken. The Preceptory had, however, the right to the presentation and the impropriation of the tythes, as is shown by the *Liber Ecclesiasticus* of Henry VIII. The living is a donative curacy, in the gift of Thos. Chamberlayne, esq. and appears in the Parliamentary returns as worth £112.

SKETCH XVIII.

THE NEW FOREST.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Lyndhurst	3560	3521	1380
Minstead	8590	2717	1155
Bramshaw	1500	1079	474
Eling	14950	13846	5410
Dibden	2000	2041	490
Fawley	6590	5531	1972
Exbury	2600	1670	406
Beaulieu	9480	3891	1339

THE New Forest has given its name to one of the hundreds of the County for many centuries, as it now does to one of its Poor Law Unions, comprising eight parishes situated wholly, or in part, within the limits of the ancient forest, and which will form the subject of the present Sketch.

The pleasant village of *Lyndhurst* may be considered as the metropolis of this sylvan district, as it contains the official residence of the Warden of the New Forest, a homely structure known as the Queen's House, in which the Forest Courts of Attachment and Swanmote are held; in it is to be seen an ancient stirrup, said to be one of those used by King William Rufus when he was slain in this neighbourhood 746 years ago whilst engaged in the pleasures of the chase. The church, though it occupies a commanding site, being seated on an eminence, is equally devoid of antiquity and beauty. The living is annexed to the rectory of Minstead, but there is always here a resident curate. A free school, founded in 1786 under the will of W. Philipps, esq. for twenty-six poor children, has an income of £26. *Lyndhurst* is mentioned in the Domesday Book as a royal

manor, and was then, as now, situated in the middle of the forest, whilst its name signifies no other than Lyn's wood. Northerwood House, the residence of John Pulteney, esq. is situated on a delightful eminence, about half a mile to the north-west of the village. The house is well sheltered by wood on the north, east, and west sides, and commands a most extensive prospect to the south and south-west, bounded by the Isle of Wight and the Needles. The exterior of the house, which is in the modern style, is pleasing in the highest degree, and the interior is fitted with elegance. The pleasure grounds have been laid out with much skill and taste. In consequence of an occasional visit by George III, the house was known as Mount Royal, but since the demise of that monarch it has regained its ancient name. Foxlease, the seat of James M'Taggart, esq. is situated about half a mile from the village on the high road to Lymington. The house was erected near the close of the last century in imitation of Sir Robert Walpole's celebrated villa at Strawberry Hill, of which the internal decorations have been closely copied; and the park, though not spacious, contains some of the finest oaks of the Forest. Cuffnells, the seat of Sir Edward Poore, bart. lies to the west of Lyndhurst. The house stands on a rising ground, embosomed in trees; the park is remarkable for its bold irregularity of surface, and is adorned by majestic oak and noble beech trees; and in the pleasure grounds amidst a great variety of American plants, there is a rhododendron measuring fifty paces round, the branches all proceeding from one stem. Lyndhurst gives the title of Baron to the present Lord Chancellor of England, who in 1827, was created Baron Lyndhurst of Lyndhurst in the county of Southampton.

The adjoining parish to the west is *Minstead*, the manor of which in the reign of William the Conqueror was held by the sons of Malf, a Saxon thane, as it had been held by their father of Edward the Confessor, which plainly shows that the Conqueror did not exterminate the Saxon inhabitants of this district, as has

been asserted by the monkish historians, but allowed them to retain their possessions under the same tenure as they had been held by their forefathers. The manor held by the sons of Malf probably forms a portion of the estate of H. C. Compton, esq. one of the representatives of the southern division of the county, whose seat is still known as Minstead Manor-house, and who is the patron of the rectory, which is of the gross annual value of £404. Our monarchs of the Norman line had here a hunting-seat, known as Malwood Castle, of which nothing now remains but the traces of its ditches and original foundation, which contains an area of several acres. It was from this castle that King William Rufus issued on the 2nd of August, 1,100, to enjoy the pleasures of the chase which terminated with his death. The particulars are thus stated by the Rev. Dr. Lingard in his History of England :—" For some time predictions of his approaching fate had been circulated among the people, and were readily believed by those whose piety he had shocked by his debaucheries, or whose hatred he had provoked by his tyranny; nor was he without apprehension himself. On the 1st of August he passed a restless night, and his imagination was so disturbed by dreams, that he sent for his servants to watch by his bed. Before sun-rise one of them entered his chamber and related to him the vision of a foreign monk, which was interpreted to presage some calamity to the King. 'The man,' he exclaimed, 'dreams like a monk. Give him a hundred shillings.' He was unable to conceal the impression these portents made upon his mind, and at the request of his friends abandoned his design of hunting and devoted the morning to business. At dinner he ate and drank more copiously than usual; his spirits revived; and shortly afterwards rode out into the Forest. There most of his attendants successively left him, separating in the pursuit of game; and about sunset he was discovered by some countrymen lying on the ground and weltering in his blood. An arrow, the shaft of which was broken, had entered his breast. By

whose hand the king fell, and whether by accident or design, are questions which cannot be satisfactorily answered. The report which obtained credit at the time, was that William, following a wounded deer with his eyes, held his hand near his face to intercept the rays of the sun, and that at the same moment an arrow from the bow of Walter Tyrrel, a French knight, glancing from a tree struck him in the breast. It was added, that the unintentional homicide, spurring his horse to the shore, immediately crossed to the continent, and that a pilgrimage which he afterwards made to the Holy Land was attributed to remorse, and construed into a proof of his guilt. But Tyrrel always denied the charge; and after his return, when he had nothing to hope or fear, deposed upon oath before Suger, Abbot of St. Denys, that he never saw the king on the day of his death, nor entered the part of the forest in which he fell."

Among parties suspected, and even charged with the crime, were the emissaries of Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, then in exile; but there is another personage against whom there rests stronger suspicions, namely, William's younger brother, afterwards Henry I, who was hunting in the forest at the time of his brother's death, and upon hearing of it, hastened the same evening to Winchester where he made himself master of the royal treasures, and having on the following day obtained a recognition of his claim to the crown to the prejudice of that of his elder brother Robert Duke of Normandy, proceeded to Westminster, where he was crowned on Sunday the 5th, only the third day from the death of William, and who never caused any enquiry to be made into the actual cause of his untimely death. Tradition asserts that the dead body of the monarch was conveyed by a charcoal burner living at Minstead, of the name of Purkis, to Winchester, where it was hastily and without ceremony interred in the cathedral, the prior and monks not vouchsafing a mass or even a *de profundis* for the repose of the soul of the departed Majesty of

England. The church was thought to be desecrated in being allowed to be the last resting place of one whose frowns had been dreaded, and whose smiles had been courted by those who now expressed their detestation of his memory. In the choir may still be seen a grey marble tomb which marks the original grave of the "Red King," but its contents were transferred within fifty years afterwards into those mortuary chests which range on the screen erected by Bishop Fox, on both sides of the upper end of the choir. The descendants of him who rendered the last services of humanity to his sovereign, though a tyrant and particularly obnoxious to the native population, are still to be found in the parish of Minstead. It is said that during the lapse of seven hundred centuries and a half, that not one of the family has risen so high in the world as "to keep a farm and carters;" neither has any one of them sunk so low as to require parochial relief. The precise spot on which stood the oak, from which, it is said, glanced the fatal arrow, is marked by an angular stone, five feet high, erected by Lord Delewar just a hundred years ago. At that time the tree had become so decayed and mutilated that his lordship had it pulled down, and caused a more lasting memorial to be placed on its site; this however having also become mutilated, the late Right Hon. William Sturgess Bourne cased it with iron to preserve it from further injury. The original inscription on the stone runs thus:—

"Here stood the Oak tree on which an arrow shot by Sir Walter Tyrrel at a stag, glanced and struck King William II. surnamed Rufus, in the breast, of which he instantly died, on the 2nd of August, Anno 1100."

"King William II. surnamed Rufus being slain, as before related, was laid in a cart belonging to one Purkiss, and drawn from thence to Winchester, and buried in the Cathedral Church of that city."

"Anno 1745."

"That where an event so memorable had happened might not hereafter be unknown, this stone was set up by John Lord Delawar, who had seen the tree growing in this place."

The parish of *Bramshaw* is situated partly in Hampshire and partly in Wiltshire, the village standing in the former and the church in the latter. The living is a vicarage in the patronage of the dean and chapter of Salisbury; the appropriators of the great tythes, and is of the annual value of £75. The church, like all the ancient churches in this district, stands on an eminence. Of the original structure the nave alone remains, the chancel and aisles having been rebuilt in 1829, when a number of grotesque heads were discovered in the old walls, and which have been preserved. From a copse in this parish it is said, the timber was obtained for the building of Salisbury cathedral six hundred years ago.

The extensive parish of *Eling* seated at the head of the Southampton estuary on its western bank, comprises fifteen tythings. It is mentioned as Edlinges in the Doomsday Book, and although portions of the present parish appear as distinct manors, it as far exceeded the adjoining manors as it does now the adjoining parishes. It was held by the king, and contained twenty ploughlands, five in demesne, two mills, a fishery and saltern, with 125 acres of meadow and woods, which furnished twenty hogs. In addition to the above, the portion of the manor which had been afforested had woods that furnished 280 hogs, and a yearly produce of three gallons of honey, all of which were considered worth £26 to the king. The present tythings of Totton, Thatchbury, Marchwood, Testwood, Langley, Bartley Regis, Durley and Ower, are all mentioned as manors distinct and independent from Eling, but in the several accounts of them there is no mention of any church, the probability being that Eling church was for the whole district, and that there was no other within the limits of the present parish.

The village with the adjoining hamlets of Totton and Rumbidge form a considerable town possessing an extensive trade in corn, timber and coal; spacious granaries and warehouses have been erected on the quay, which is accessible to vessels of 200 tons burthen. The church,

which is of Norman foundation, has been enlarged at different periods, and exhibits various styles of architecture. The living is a vicarage of the annual value of £904, in the patronage of the Rev. W. J. G. Phillips, the present incumbent. District churches have been erected and endowed at Marchwood and Cadnam. A fair for cattle is held on July 5th, and a market for corn on Fridays.

Netley Marsh is supposed to be the site of a hard contested battle, fought 1,200 years ago between the Saxons under the command of Cerdic and the Britons, who were defeated with the loss of 50,000, among whom was their commander *Natan*, from whom it is said the spot received its present name, being first called *Natan-lege*, or the field of Natan, and by corruption Netley.

On Thatchbury Mount may be traced some entrenchments, which has led to the supposition that it was occupied as a military station, and it was also asserted that it was the site of a royal hunting-seat situated to the south of the hill, where numerous foundations have been recently discovered in digging for those of the present manor-house.

There are several gentlemen's mansions within the limits of this parish, the most spacious of which is Paul-ton, the seat of W. Sloane Stanley, esq. situated in a park five miles in circumference. The estate formerly belonged to the Paulett family; whence the derivation of its name, and was purchased by the great-grandfather of the present proprietor William Stanley, esq. of Southampton, whose son married one of the daughters and co-heiresses of the celebrated Sir Hans Sloane, the founder of the British Museum. The mansion was in a great measure rebuilt by the late Hans Sloane Stanley, esq. and still further improved by his son. The house stands low, and, with the exception of a noble colonnade at the principal front, has but a plain exterior; but the interior comprises a number of spacious and elegant apartments, the walls of which are ornamented with paintings by the best masters. The timber of the park

is remarkably large and ornamental, comprising principally elm trees of luxuriant growth. Testwood House, the seat of the late Rt. Hon. W. Sturges Bourne, is situated in a small park near the river from which it derives its name. Bury Manor House is a seat belonging to Sir John Barker Mill, which, with the manor, is held of the crown by the tenure of presenting to the sovereign *a brace of milk white greyhounds*, when the Majesty of England should visit the New Forest. This custom was observed in 1879, when the late Rev. Sir Charles Mills presented a couple of these animals to King George III. as his Majesty alighted from his carriage at Lyndhurst.

The parish of *Dibden* is situated to the south of that of Eling, and on the western side of the Southampton estuary. The name is of Saxon origin, *Deep-dene*, a woody dell, the name by which it appears in Doomsday Book, and is there mentioned as containing a fishery and saltern. The church is an ancient structure but devoid of beauty. The living is a rectory of the annual value of £400, in the patronage of Lord Ashburton.

Fawley, the next parish to the south, is called *Falegia* and *Falalia* in Doomsday Book, and is there mentioned as containing a chapel, and as forming a portion of the possessions of the Bishop of Winchester, who still retains the patronage of the rectory, which is of the annual value of £1,400. Fawley has been the name of one of the hundreds of Hampshire, probably for nearly a thousand years, yet Fawley is not only in another hundred, (Bishop's Waltham) but is at the distance of twelve, and in some instances nearly thirty miles from parishes which compose the Fawley hundred. Calshot Castle, in this parish, situated at the mouth of the Southampton estuary, is one of the many forts erected by Henry VIII. to defend the southern coast of England. The church is an ancient edifice, consisting of a nave, aisles, and a lofty tower, from which there is a very extensive prospect. There is a district church at Hythe in the patronage of the rector, of the annual

value of £92. About a mile to the north of the village we have Cadlands, the seat of A. Drummond, esq. one of the most delightful residences in this portion of the county. The park is about five miles in circumference, and is finely diversified by its irregular surface and woodland scenery. The house is on a gentle eminence, and though of plain exterior, the interior is commodious. The singular residence of Lord Craven, situated near the Solent, and known as Eaglehurst, was erected nearly a century ago by the Hon. Temple Luttrell as a prospect house. This gentleman's taste, as here displayed, was not duly appreciated by the neighbourhood, who conferred on his erection the title of "Luttrell's Folly." One portion of the building, which stands on a beautiful and commanding eminence, consists of a lofty tower, which contains the banquetting and several sitting rooms, which are fitted up in a very splendid style.

The parish of *Exbury* abuts that of *Fawley*, and is a chapelry annexed to that rectory. The name is derived from the situation of the village at the mouth of the *Ex*, or *Beaulieu* river.

Higher up this river we have, on the western bank, the village of *Beaulieu*, and on the opposite side, the site of the once famous abbey of the same name, founded by King John in 1204. The cause of the foundation is thus related by an ancient writer:—"The King being beyond measure, though without reason, enraged at the Abbots and monks of the Cistercian order, after various oppressive measures, summoned the heads of the order to a Parliament which he held at Lincoln. They obeyed the summons, flattering themselves that he at last relented, and would now confer on them some mark of grace. But instead of this, as soon as he beheld them, the savage Monarch ordered the Abbots to be trodden to death by horses. None of his attendants, however, being found sufficiently cruel to obey the bloody command, the ecclesiastics, dreadfully alarmed and despairing of any favour from John, retired hastily to their inn. In the course of the ensuing night, when the Monarch slum-

bered on his bed, he dreamt that he was led before a judge, around whom the Cistercian Abbots were standing, which judge ordered the monks to stripe the back of the king severely, with rods and thongs, a beating of which he declared he felt the effects when he awoke the next morning. This dream he related to a certain ecclesiastic of his court; the priest assured him that the Almighty had been above measure kind and merciful to him, who had thought fit to afford this paternal affection in the present life, and to reveal to him the mysteries of his dispensation. He therefore advised John to send immediately for the Abbots, whom he had hitherto cruelly treated, and humbly crave pardon of them for his barbarous conduct. The King, adopting this council, ordered the Abbots instantly to attend him, a message which they received with fear and trembling, thinking they should now certainly be banished from the kingdom. God, however, who will never forsake his servants, had ordered things otherwise, and the king, instead of venting his indignation against them, as they feared, received them with kindness and complacency."

Such is the reputed motive which induced the pusillanimous and superstitious Sansterre to establish on the banks of the Ex a colony of monks. He was now anxious to make reparation to the Cistercians for the cruelty and contumely they had hitherto endured, and granted a charter for the foundation of the Abbey, endowing it with a large tract of land in its neighbourhood, which he took out of the forest, and the manors of Great and Little Ferringdon, Great and Little Cokeswell, Schulton, Inglesham and Longford, all in Berkshire, exempting it from multifarious tolls, services and other impositions, and conferring on it many privileges and immunities. He also directed his treasurer to pay one hundred marks towards the erection of the monastery, and issued his commands to all Cistercian houses to assist in the holy work. The magnificent scale on which this royal Abbey was erected was such as to leave a debt of 4,000 marks on the completion of the work, which the monks were enabled to

defray by a grant of the impropriation of the church and chapel of Cokewell. Henry III. extended the privileges of the monks, granting them a right of holding fairs and markets on stated days, and Edward III. ordered that a ton of wine should be delivered annually, at the port of Southampton, to them for the celebration of mass. About the same period the Abbey was received under the especial protection of the Holy See, and was invested with the extraordinary privilege of *Sanctuary*. This privilege connected Beaulieu with the history of England, by its giving temporary refuge to two remarkable characters—namely, the renowned Margaret of Anjou, the heroic queen of the imbecile Henry VI. and Perkin Warbeck, the real or pretended representative of the “White Rose” in the reign of Henry VII. In the first instance, Margaret, who had obtained in France a number of auxiliaries to support the Lancastrian claim, landed at Weymouth, on the very day on which the fatal battle of Barnet was fought, and her general, “the King-maker,” was slain; and she had hardly recovered from the fatigue of the voyage, when a messenger arrived with the fatal intelligence. All her hopes of success now appeared delusive, and hastening across the country with her son, she took refuge in Beaulieu, even as her rival Queen Elizabeth had enjoyed security in the Sanctuary of Westminster but a few months before. She remained here but a short time, for yielding to the suggestions of the Earl of Devon and other of her faithful adherents, she again bravely, though unsuccessfully, contested the crown of England. This was in 1471, and twenty-six years afterwards, Perkin Warbeck, having been defeated at Taunton in his attempt at the crown, took refuge in Beaulieu Abbey. Lord Daubeney invested the place with 300 men, and precluded every hope of escape. Yet here he remained for some time, the King not attempting to violate the sanctuary, till Warbeck, by delusive promises, surrendered himself a prisoner.

At the dissolution of the monasteries, Beaulieu was another of the abbeys of Hampshire which fell to the lot

of Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton. By letters patent, dated the 29th of July, 1539, King Henry VIII. grants to Thomas Wriothesley, esq. "all the manor of Beaulieu, with its rights, members and appurtenances, (the rectory of the parish church and the right of patronage alone excepted,) in as full and ample a manner as any abbot thereof, before it came into the hands of the king, held or enjoyed the same, with the tythe of hay, corn, cattle, and all other tytheable things, to hold and enjoy at the yearly rent of £10. 5s. 8d; together with all the ancient right of court leets, strays, fairs, markets, stallage, tolls, jurisdiction, rights, *sea wrecks*, goods and chattels of felons and fugitives, deodands, parks, &c. in as full a manner as any of his predecessors enjoyed the same." The possessions at that time amounted, according to Dugdale, to the annual sum of £326. 13s. 2d, and according to Speed to £428. 6s. 8d, exclusive of the estates in Berkshire, which, it is probable, were not obtained by Wriothesley. The instrument by which the Abbot of Beaulieu and his fraternity granted away their large domain is in existence in the Augmentation Office. It is dated the 2nd of April, 1539, and bears the signatures of Thomas Stephens, the abbot, and twenty of the monks, and is authenticated by the seal of the monastery pending at the bottom, composed of red wax, and represents three rich gothic canopies; under the middle one are the figures of the Virgin and child (the abbey being dedicated to the Virgin Mary), and under the other canopies are persons in the posture of adoration; below these at the foot of the seal is the following inscription: *Sigillum commune monasterii belli loci Regis*. To reward the abbot and the monks for their compliance with the king's wishes they were pensioned off, the pension of the former amounting to 100 marks annually.

Little now remains of the ancient pile; the church, the cloisters, and the greater portion of the monastic offices have long ago been destroyed. The site of the church may be traced by the unevenness of the ground, but not a vestige of the building remains. Fragments of tombs have occasionally been dug up, it having been

the burial place of various illustrious personages, among whom, Queen Eleanor, the mother of the founder of the abbey, King John. Where stood the cloisters may still be distinguished round an area about a quarter of an acre, now a garden, on the west side of which there is a gateway with rich mouldings, pillars, and capitals. A portion of the abbot's lodgings is still in existence, and the building now used as the parish church of Beaulieu was the great hall or refectory of the monastery. It is a plain stone edifice with strong buttresses, the roof of which is curiously rafted with oak, the intersection of the ribs being embossed with rude sculptures of angels with shields, abbots' heads, and other figures. On the west side, elevated above twelve feet from the floor, is a stone pulpit of great elegance of design, in which one of the monks read a chapter from the Scriptures when the remainder were assembled at their meals. The ordinances which regulated the discipline of these ecclesiastics strove to blend instruction with every office and employment of their lives, even so much so that even the hours of repast were not suffered to glide away without the administration of intellectual as well as corporeal food.

In the immediate vicinity of the abbey there are some fields with a gentle declivity to the south, still known as the vineyard. Within the area of the abbey, which is even now partially surrounded by a stone wall, there are various fish-ponds and stews, formed for the use of the convent, abounding with fish.

Within the distance of two miles to the south is St. Leonard's, which was the principal grange or farm belonging to the abbey, and which was long famed for its huge barn, 226 feet in length, 77 feet in width, and upwards of 60 in height. There are also the remains of a chapel which once could boast of considerable beauty and decoration, but has long been applied as a goose-house and a pig-stye. At a short distance further south we have Park Farm, which was also a grange belonging to the monks of Beaulieu. The chapel is still standing, a massive stone building 42 feet in length and 14 feet

in breadth, and is divided into two apartments by a stone screen which reaches the roof. Each apartment is vaulted with stone, supported by four plain ribs, which unite in a rose in the centre. The windows are of the thirteenth century, the building being probably erected within fifty years after the foundation of the abbey.

About the commencement of the last century Beaulieu became famed for its witch, Mary Dore, who found a patron in the second Duke of Montagu, the successor to the Wriothesley estate, who, when she departed this life, raised to her memory a monument bearing an inscription of a curious nature in allusion to her reputed magical powers. Sixty years have not passed away since persons were bold enough to assert that they had known the old lady convert herself into the form of a hare or a cat when likely to be apprehended in the commission of wood stealing, an offence to which she was much addicted.

Beaulieu, in addition to its abbey and its witch, has some notoriety as the place where, by report, an attempt was made, or suggested, to detain the cuckoo all the year, by hedging it in. The story seems equally probable with the reputed origin of the term Cockney, which title could not be more displeasing to a thorough-bred Londoner than the mention of the cuckoo was a few years ago to the inhabitants of Beaulieu. It is a fact that the neighbourhood in which the harbinger of spring is earliest heard is that of Beaulieu, and naturally so beautifully wooded a vale, opening to the south, would tempt there the wanderer to repose. It is said that even as early as April 15th, being Beaulieu fair day, the cuckoo is invariably heard. The living is a donative curacy in the patronage of the Duke of Buccleugh, of the annual value of £72.

SKETCH XIX.

LYMINGTON AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Lymington	1570	12128	3813
Boldre	5200	6169	2288
Brockenhurst . . .	2980	3196	928
Milford	4640	6627	1819
Milton	4560	4798	1185
Hordel	1930	2519	845

THE fair town of *Lymington*, delightfully situated on elevated ground on the western side of the Boldre river, with a rapid declivity to the water's edge, boasts of an antiquity of nearly or quite two thousand years. It is asserted that the town existed previous to the invasion of Britain by the Romans, which is supported by its ancient name, *Limintun*, derived from the British word *Limii*, a stream of water, and the Saxon appellation *tun*, a town; and it is further said that the Phœnician and other traders who frequented the Isle of Wight were supplied with salt manufactured in the numerous salterns which then existed in this neighbourhood. There are strong reasons to believe that Lymington was a Roman station; first, from the large quantity of coins and other unquestioned remains of that people which have been dug up from time to time in the town, especially in 1744, when above two hundred pounds weight of coins were discovered in two urns; and secondly, from its proximity to the Roman encampment at Bucklands.

The manor of Lymington was conferred by William the Conqueror, with many other manors in the neigh-

bourhood, on one of his Norman followers, Roger de Yvery, better known as Earl Roger, which at that period was assessed at only half a hide, because the wood had been thrown into the forest. Here was one villain, two slaves, and three borderers, who occupied one ploughland, and four acres of meadow. In the time of King Edward the Confessor its annual worth was 20s. It is curious that we have no mention of a church or the salterns which are generally supposed to have existed long prior to the reign of the Conqueror, which fact would lead one to infer that they were then wanting, and that Lymington was, eight centuries ago, an insignificant village or hamlet. The first mention made of a church or chapel is nearly a century after the compilation of the Domesday Book, when Baldwin de Redvers, lord of the manor of Boldre, Lymington and Brockenhurst, granted to the Priory of Christchurch the church of Boldre and the dependent chapelries of Lymington and Brockenhurst.

In the reign of William Rufus the manor was confiscated to the crown in consequence of the second Earl Roger, the son and successor of the above named Roger de Yvery, having supported the claim advanced by Robert Duke of Normandy, the king's elder brother, to the throne of England. Henry I. granted Lymington, together with the lordship of the Isle of Wight and the borough of Christchurch, on Richard de Redvers, a powerful Norman baron who had faithfully adhered to him in all his troubles and difficulties, both before and after he had ascended the throne, and it was part of the possessions of that family for nearly two centuries, during which period it rose to be a place of considerable importance.—It obtained the grant of a fair, its port was established; and the wines of France and other foreign commodities were landed at its quay; whilst its salterns were of such value that Richard de Redvers did not think the tythe of their produce an insignificant donation to his newly-founded abbey at Quarre in the Isle of Wight. In the reign of Edward II. Isabella de Fortibus, in

whom was vested as heiress the vast possessions of this family, released the lordship of the Isle of Wight and all her estates in Hampshire to the crown in consideration of the sum of 6,000 marks.

Little is known of the ancient history of Lymington, but tradition asserts that it was plundered and fired by the French on three several occasions during the 14th and 15th centuries, and on the fourth saved by female presence of mind. The town was of sufficient importance in the reign of Edward III. to receive a summons to send members to Parliament, which was not complied with till two and a half centuries later—in the reign of Elizabeth. About the same period that the town received a summons to elect members of Parliament, it became involved in a lawsuit with the borough of Southampton relative to the receipt of the petty duties taken by the inhabitants of Lymington on certain merchandises brought to the quay. Notwithstanding that the legal decision was against them, and that they were fined, they still persisted in repeating the offence and repeatedly paid for it; but at length, in the year 1730, the cause was brought on for trial at the County Assizes, when a jury, composed principally of the inhabitants of the Forest, returned a verdict in favour of their local Liverpool, and since that period the petty customs have been received at Lymington.

Towards the close of the war between Charles I. and his Parliament, and during the time his Majesty was a prisoner in the castle of Carisbrook, several ships stationed at Portsmouth revolted from the latter and declared for the former. The Prince of Wales, afterwards Charles II. took the command and appeared off Yarmouth, which is only three miles distant from Lymington, on the opposite side of the Solent, with nineteen ships and two thousand men. His object was the liberation of the king, in which he failed, the men he had landed at Yarmouth being defeated by the Parliamentary forces, and he was eventually obliged to withdraw from before the town. During the continuance of the

royal fleet in Yarmouth road, it was supplied with provisions free of charge from the inhabitants of Lymington, who were warmly disposed to the royal cause, and the mayor engaged to take an inferior command in the Prince's army should it gain a footing in the Island. Forty-seven years afterwards the mayor and inhabitants of Lymington manifested a very different feeling towards the house of Stuart, namely, in the rebellion under the Duke of Monmouth, in the reign of James II. No sooner was the Duke known to have landed at Lyme in Dorsetshire, than the mayor not only caused him to be proclaimed King, but raised one hundred men to assist him. But before he could encompass his design the Duke's forces were completely routed at Sedgemoor, and himself afterwards taken prisoner in his way to Lymington, from whence he trusted to be enabled to leave the kingdom through the agency of his friend the mayor. There is a tale on record that a strong party at Lymington, hostile to the government of James II. used to assemble at the house of Mrs. Knapton, and that one day the junto had been convened, and were deep in consultation over a pipe of tobacco and a can of strong beer, when news was brought that a party of the king's troops had entered the town for the purpose of apprehending them. The guests were desired instantly to make their escape through the back windows, the pipes and drinking vessels were hidden, and, lest the effluvia of the tobacco should betray the secret of the meeting, the hostess wrapt up her face in flannel, took a pipe and began smoking most furiously. The trick succeeded, for the king's soldiers found no one but an old woman, suffering extreme torture from a tooth-ache, which she was trying to allay by the fumes of the import from Virginia. It does not appear that either the mayor or any of the inhabitants suffered in the least degree for their treasonable practices.

In the year 1756, there was a curious correspondence between the mayor of Southampton and the deputy mayor of Lymington, relative to the intention expressed

by the former as lord admiral and conservator of the seas and coast between Southsea Castle on the east, and Hurst Castle on the west, to hold a court at Lymington as one of the places within his jurisdiction. The correspondence commences by a letter from the mayor of Southampton, in which he states his purpose to erect a booth, and to hold an Admiralty Court on Lymington Quay, concluding with an invitation to his brother mayor and his brethren to dine with the Southampton Corporation at the Angel Inn. The representative of the municipal authority of Lymington replies, that before the mayor and corporation could agree to meet those of Southampton at dinner, it is necessary that the latter ask permission of the former, the quay on which the booth was to be erected, being within their jurisdiction. Then follows a letter from the mayor of Southampton, making the required request, and praying that the mayor may have his silver oar, the insignia of his authority borne before him, and his trumpets sounding through the streets. After this, there was a meeting of burgesses, to whom the correspondence was submitted, and who being satisfied that their ancient rights and privileges had not been compromised, granted full permission and authority to the Admiral and Conservator of the Hampshire Coast.

Previous to the passing of the Reform Act, the right of electing members of Parliament was in the mayor and freemen, who at the commencement of the last century amounted to 187, and for several years previous to 1832 the number did not amount to 50. The patrons of the borough were the two branches of the Burrard family, which have been connected with Lymington for nearly three centuries, John Burrard having been mayor in the 15th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, 1573. At the commencement of the last century, the right of the corporation was disputed by the inhabitants, but the decision of the House of Commons was in favour of the former. Previous to the passing of the Municipal Act, the mayor was elected on the Sunday succeeding

the feast of St. Matthew, September 22, by the freemen in the following manner ;—Three candidates were nominated, and their names entered into a book, and every freeman drew a stroke following the name of the person whom he preferred as chief magistrate. In 1727 there was a contest for the office, when two of the candidates polled an equal number of strokes—39, but the casting vote of the retiring mayor decided the election. In the olden time, not only was the mayor of Lymington preceded on all state occasions by that ensign of municipal authority the mace, but the laws of the corporation required that it should be borne before the Town Clerk, or his deputy, whenever he should be required to summon the freemen or deliver any official notice.

The ancient records of the corporation, contain some curious particulars as may be seen by the following extracts :—

1574—“ Whoever admits a stranger to be his tenant without the consent of the mayor, to forfeit 5s. for every month the stranger shall abide in his house. That every man being a burgess or commoner to forfeit 10s. and three days imprisonment for every time he shall mis-use the mayor in word or deed.”

“ If any burgess do miscall, misname, or call by any ill name a brother burgess, at any time hereafter, in the presence of the mayor or in open audience, he shall forfeit 3s. 4d. and if any burgess shall refuse to obey the mayor's summons, he shall be fined 5s. or be imprisoned two days and two nights.”

1608—“ That whereas the town book, by which the mayor and burgesses, as well as the inhabitants, should be governed, is now in the house of Luke Stevens, who died of the plague, and cannot be viewed without danger ; and whereas the mayor and burgesses do not agree so well together as they should do ; by reason of which the inhabitants are contemptuous and grown into a kind of rebellious life and behaviour.”

1615—“ All the butchers of the town be required to deliver their tallow to H. Turner, chandler, at 3d. per pound for the best, and 2d. per pound for the worser sort, and to

sell their suet to the inhabitants at 4d. per pound; and all foreign butchers coming to the market to bring in their tallow and suet and sell them at those prices, or pay double the value to the chandler, who was required to supply the inhabitants with candles at 4d. per pound. Pigs not allowed to go unyoked about the streets, nor to come into the High street on market-day, and if found, the owner to be fined 4d. of which 2d. is to be paid to the mayor and the remainder to the drover."

1677—"It was agreed upon by the mayor and burgesses of this borrough, for the preventing of animosities and other inconveniences which may arrise at the choice of a fit person to serve as mayor of this town, that for the future the mayor shall be elected in this manner.—Whereas there are always two persons who stand on the election from the year past, and are to continue in order to election at the usual time again; the mayor for the time being shall nominate three burgesses more, out of which one shall be chosen to make up a third person to stand in the election for mayor. The way of choosing shall be thus; namely,—every burgess (those on the election only excepted) shall have three bullets, and each bullet of a different colour, delivered to him, which colours shall be black, white, and red, and each person on their election, if present, shall choose his colour; if absent, or will not agree to it, then the major part of the burgesses shall name his colour. Then shall there be appointed a box covered and a bag in it, and the youngest burgess shall begin first and put into the box, privately, the person's coloured bullet whom he thinks most fit to be put into election for mayor, and his other bullets, to prevent all discovery, shall be as privately put into the bag. Then the next youngest burgess shall put in his bullets in like manner with the former, and so all in order as done heretofore by strokes, till it comes to the mayor, who is likewise to put in his bullets as the rest before him. When this is done the bullets in the box shall be told by the mayor, and that person who hath the most bullets of a colour shall be put to the other two on the former election, and when this is done, out of these three shall be chosen by way of bullet that person who shall serve as mayor for the year ensuing; always remembering that in the case that the bullets fall out to be equal the mayor shall have the casting voice. And

it is further agreed by the mayor and burgesses aforesaid, that the burgess or burgesses to be sent in Parliament for this borough shall be elected in this manner, viz. if three, more or less, stand for the election, every burgess (except those on the election) shall have as many bullets delivered to them of different colours as there are persons on the election, and that a coloured bullet for the person who he judges most fit to be chosen a burgess for the Parliament shall be privately put into the covered box, and the rest into the covered bag by it; and that he who hath the most bullets of the colour which he made choice of, or was nominated to, shall be legally chosen and returned a burgess to serve in Parliament for this borough."

It does not appear that these resolutions were ever carried into effect, nor is there anything to show why the system was not adopted, whether it was found to be illegal, or whether it was feared it would not have the desired effect.

The church, situated at the upper or western termination of the High street, is not the chapel mentioned in the grant of Richard de Redvers to the Priory of Christchurch, which was destroyed by the French during one of their hostile visits to the town. The present edifice originally consisted of a nave and side aisles, but the structure has, during the last two centuries, been so much altered, without the least regard to uniformity of design, that its original form is nearly lost, but several windows at the east-end which are of a decorated character would give to this church an antiquity of five hundred years.

Among the entries in the parish register appears the following, bearing date 1736—"Samuel Baldwin, esq. a sojourner in this parish, was immersed without the Needles in Scratcher's Bay, *sans ceremonie*, May 20th." This was done, according to the direction of the deceased, in order to prevent his wife being gratified by dancing over his grave, which she had several times promised him she would do, if she had the good luck to outlive him. The living is a chapelry dependent on the mother

church of Boldre, the vicar of which appoints the curate of Lymington. Arduous and important as the duties of the latter must be, the population of the parish amounting to nearly four thousand, he is far more dependent on his congregation than the ministers of many dissenting chapels, whilst his permanent income, with the exception of the surplice fees, does not exceed £20. The great tythes formerly belonged to the Priory of Christchurch, but were conferred by Henry VIII. on his newly-erected see of Bristol.

An Independent chapel is also situated at the upper end of the High street, the Baptists have a handsome chapel in New Lane, and the followers of the late Mr. Irving have recently erected one in Southampton Buildings.

Nothing can be said in praise of the Market Place and Guildhall, which are most inconveniently situated in the middle of the street, and are totally devoid of beauty or decoration. A century ago this building was not the only obstruction of the High street, as on the establishment of the Free School the Corporation gave one belonging to them, standing on eighteen pillars in the High street, as the school house. The school was founded by George Tulford, esq. of Toller Fratton, in the county of Dorset, 1668, who gave fifteen acres to maintain the same. The instruction prescribed is Latin, Greek, writing, and arithmetic, and good life; and at the period of the investigation of charities, the income amounted to £20 10s. and ten boys were instructed in writing, reading, and arithmetic. There is also another provision for education under the will of A. Burrard, 1777, from whose benevolence £6 is paid to a school master for teaching five boys reading, writing, and arithmetic, and the same sum to a school mistress for teaching five girls reading and work. The only other charity of note is that of Rogers for five old men and five old women, each of whom receive nearly £4 annually.

The salt works, for which Lymington was justly famed, were situated on the sea coast to the south and south-

west of the town. A century ago £50,000 was paid by this neighbourhood alone as their share of duty in the manufacture of salt, and only fifty years ago there were forty salterns, whilst at the present time there are but two or three in use. Near the salterns, and about half a mile from the town, are the public baths lately erected at a considerable cost, and fitted up with every convenience and accommodation; here are hot, cold, shower, medicated, vapour and swimming baths, and at the top of the building there is a reading room, commanding a very extensive and delightful prospect.

The trade of the place is by no means extensive, being principally confined to the supply of the neighbourhood. Its river, which, when the tide is in presents a fine expanse of water, has not the depth which it had years ago, an evil which is on the increase, occasioned by the injudicious construction of a dam or causeway to the north of the town and neglect, by which the channel has been contracted by means of mud. A century ago vessels of 500 tons burthen could be brought to the quay, and now vessels of half that burthen can scarcely be navigated to it.

Lymington gives its name to one of the magisterial divisions of the county, is the centre of a Poor Law Union, and a polling place for the southern division of the county. Its market is held on Saturday, and its fairs are on the 12th of May and the 2nd of October, for cheese, horses, cattle, &c. The borough limits for Parliamentary elections include a considerable portion of the parish of Boldre, but the municipal boundaries are far less extensive and do not embrace the whole town.

Buckland Rings, or Castlefield, situated one mile from the town on the north, is the site of a Roman encampment, but, in consequence of the number of trees planted on its sides, its former appearance is destroyed, so that it can no longer attract the attention of the passing stranger. The date of its foundation may be fixed at nearly eight hundred years ago, at the time the Roman general, afterwards emperor, Vespasian, was engaged in the con-

quest of the Isle of Wight. The encampment is on an elevated ground near the Boldre river, which it commands and overlooks. Its area is about 800 yards in circumference, being 210 yards from east to west, and 125 yards from north to south, defended on the north, east, and south sides by treble ramparts and ditches, but on the west side the works are only double. It appears probable that vessels could come up to the foot of the hill on which the fortification was seated, it being remarked by Mr. Warner that the inquisitive eye may still discern a morass which runs in a right angle from the western side of the river nearly to the foot of the entrenchment, the traces of a cut or dock evidently connected with the work; which, though in the lapse of ages, has been entirely choked up and converted into a swamp, yet was probably deep enough in Vespasian's time to receive the largest of the Roman gallees. On the opposite side of the river, but two miles to the south-east, there is an artificial mount, supposed to have been a speculum, or watch tower to this camp, and commanding a very extensive view over the Isle of Wight, the channel and the adjacent country.

Boldre, or *Bovreford*, or a ford for oxen, was a place of some importance in the Saxon times, and gave its name to one of the hundreds of the county. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as are the tithings of Baddesley, Batramsley, Sway, and Walhampton, and the notice shows that the greater portion of the manor was thrown into the Forest by William the Conqueror, and though it was before worth the annual sum of £10, it was then returned at nothing. Boldre church is of Norman foundation, but alterations and additions have been made since that period. Previous to the Reformation it belonged, with the chapelries of Lymington and Brockenhurst, to the Priory of Christchurch. It is seated on an eminence, and presents from many points a picturesque appearance. There is only one house standing near it within the distance of half a mile and that several hundred yards removed from it, and is in the summer

season nearly enveloped by the surrounding trees. The living is a vicarage, with those of Lymington and Brockenhurst annexed, of the annual value of £300, the Reverend Charles Shrubb, patron and incumbent. There is a chapel of ease at South Baddesley, and a district church recently erected and endowed for the tything of Sway.

Boldre School was founded in 1791 by the Rev. W. Gilpin, for educating and clothing twenty boys and twenty girls of the labouring poor, and as many more as the funds would allow. In 1826, the income amounted to £87 with which twenty-three boys and twenty-two girls were educated and clothed. The Rev. W. Gilpin, connected with Boldre by his establishment of the Parochial School and his long ministry, extending to thirty years, and with the neighbourhood by his exquisite and inimitable description of Forest scenery was a native of Carlisle, and was educated at Queen's College, Oxford. At the commencement of his career he was tutor to Colonel Mitford, author of a History of Greece, by whom he was presented to the vicarage of Boldre. As an author he was first known by the life of his lineal ancestor, the celebrated Barnard Gilpin, commonly known as the Northern Apostle. This was followed in succession by the lives of those eminent reformers—Latimer, Huss, Jerome of Prague, Zisca and Cranmer. After his acceptance of the vicarage of Boldre, in addition to which he was one of the prebendaries of Salisbury Cathedral, he published his well-known lectures on the Church Catechism, An Explanation of the New Testament, Remarks on the Forest Scenery, and Sermons for Country Congregations, with a number of other useful and entertaining works. The barbarous state in which Mr. Gilpin found his parish, when he settled at Boldre, gave him much concern, and induced him to adopt strenuous measures for its reformation and improvement. Directing his attention in the first place to the aged and impotent paupers, and the friendless and unprotected poor children of the parish, he procured a healthy and

convenient workhouse, where the one were decently lodged and comfortably provided for, and the other trained to habits of activity and order, and taught the principles of the Christian Religion. He then founded a school for teaching the elementary parts of learning, on the week days, to a certain number of male and female children of the labourers and peasantry, and for the foundation of this school he raised £400 by his various publications, and, to provide a fund for its perpetual endowment, dedicated all the future productions of his pencil to that purpose. After his death the whole of his sketches and drawings were sold, and realised the sum of £1,625. Mr. Gilpin attained the age of eighty years, and was buried in Boldre church-yard, where a stone without the chancel wall, points out the spot, bearing an inscription written by himself.

At South Baddesley there was a Preceptory of the Knights Templars founded in the twelfth century, and endowed at a later period with various lands and tenements at Milford and in the Isle of Wight. At the suppression of that order, their possessions at Baddesley were granted to the Knights Hospitallars of Jerusalem, in whose hands they remained till the dissolution of the Religious House, when they were granted to Sir Thomas Seymour, who being convicted in the reign of Edward VI. of high treason, these possessions escheated to the crown. They were re-granted to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, from whom they have descended to James Weld, esq. late of Pilewell House, a handsome family seat, situated on the coast, enjoying a fine view which ranges from the Needle Rocks on the west to Spithead on the east.

In addition to the Preceptory, there was at Baddesley a chapel, founded and endowed, in the beginning of the 14th century, by Henry Wells, lord of the manor, but it being however one of the duties of the priest to pray for the soul of the founder, the endowment came under the Act for the Suppressing Chantries, and the revenues passed into the royal treasury.

Walhampton House, the seat of the Rev. Sir George Burrard, Bart. is situated on the rising ground on the eastern side of Boldre river. The mansion is a substantial building consisting of a centre and two wings, and commands a delightful prospect of the Isle of Wight. On the brow of the hill, which rises immediately from the eastern bank of the Boldre river, and immediately opposite to the High street of Lymington, there is an obelisk 75 feet in height, erected at the cost of nearly £2000, to the memory of the late highly respected and much beloved Sir Harry Burrard Neale. The manor of Walhampton was in the reign of Henry I. conferred by Richard de Redvers on the Priory of Christchurch, to which it belonged till the reign of Henry VIII. when it was obtained by that talented head of the Catholic party Thomas Wriothesley, whose attachment to "the old learning," was not sufficient to prevent him from revelling in the spoils of his beloved church.

On Sway Common, on the eastern side of the river, there are a number of barrows, supposed to be of the date of the invasion of this portion of the country by the West Saxons under Cerdic, twelve hundred years ago, and there is a rude earth work near the river, still called Ambrose-hole, which is supposed to have derived its name from Ambrosius, the British commander. Several of the barrows were opened about fifty years since, and were found to contain large quantities of burnt earth, and parcels of wood reduced by fire to charcoal, but no human remains, which led the investigators to believe that these tumuli were constructed by the invading Saxons.

The parish of *Brockenhurst* is to the north of that of Boldre, the name of which is of Saxon origin, signifying a wood of yews. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as containing a church, and as being held by a Saxon under the king, as he had previously held it under Edward the Confessor. In the twelfth century one caracute of the manor was held by an ancestor of Sir Henry Spelman, the celebrated antiquarian, by the

service of finding an esquire, with a hambergell, or coat of mail, for forty days in England; and also *litter* for the *King's bed*, and *hay* for the *palfry*, when the king should be at Brockenhurst. The church, which stands on an artificial mound at a quarter of a mile from the village, is of Norman if not Saxon foundation, with zigzag mouldings to the door-ways on the west and south, but the chancel is of later date, the architecture being Early English. The font is an antique piece of workmanship as appears from the rude mouldings on the face of its four sides, and the extent of its excavation shows that the old custom of baptism by immersion was still in vogue at the period of its construction. Brockenhurst House, the seat of John Morant, esq. is a handsome modern building, situated in a pleasant and spacious park containing a number of noble and venerable oaks.

The adjoining parish to that of Lymington on the west is *Milford*, and is mentioned in the Domesday Book as containing a church and a mill, being held by a Saxon thane in exchange with the king for other lands within the limits of the forest. There was also a mill in the manor, now the tything of Efford, the site of which is probably occupied by Efford mill. The church is a cruciform structure, with a square tower rising at the intersection, and consists of a nave, aisles, and chancel supported by small round columns and lighted by windows of a decorated character. The living is a vicarage, with Hordel annexed, and the right of presentation to the perpetual curacy of Milton, and is of the annual value, according to the Parliamentary Returns, of £279. The patronage was, previous to the Reformation, in the Priory of Christchurch, and is now in the Provost and Fellows of Queen's College, Oxford.

Hordel, the next parish in the same direction, is also mentioned in the Domesday Book as containing a mill, and six salterns, over which the ocean now rolls triumphant, though traces of them may be seen at very low water. But these ancient salterns are not the only conquests in this vicinity of the raging element; acre after

acre have been washed away; the ancient church has been pulled down to save it from destruction and rebuilt more inland, whilst in like manner a stately mansion erected by Lord Bute has been succeeded by another more removed from the shore. The principal object worthy of notice in the parish is Hurst Castle, for a short period the place of confinement of King Charles I. It is situated at the extremity of a narrow tongue of land, running two miles in a south-easterly direction into the Solent, leaving a passage of only a mile in breadth between it and the Isle of Wight, and consists of a round tower and semi-bastions, and has a complete command over the entrance of the Solent. Tradition, which points out the apartments where Charles was confined, records also the harshness and indignity shewn to him during his continuance at Hurst, as well as the meek patience with which they were endured. The well known maxims commonly called "King Charles's Golden Rules," are believed to have been placed in the apartment, where they at present remain, by the Royal Martyr, and are venerated accordingly. In a little more than half a century, another prisoner was to be found within the walls of Hurst Castle, namely Paul Atkinson, a Franciscan friar, who, for having exercised the functions of a Catholic priest, was sentenced to perpetual confinement in this solitary prison, which extended to thirty years, and ended only with his life, 15th of October, 1729, when his remains were then removed to St. James' Burial Ground, Winchester, where a plain stone marks his resting place and notifies his long imprisonment.

The adjoining parish to the north-west is *Milton*, a perpetual curacy, of the annual value of £91, in the patronage of the vicar of Milford. Milton is mentioned in the Domesday Book by the name of Midultune, as are its tythings Ashley and Chewton (Archelie and Chenip), as being within the precincts of the forest, the latter of which appears to have been the most important, containing a mill worth 20s. a fishery which yielded 50s. and sixteen acres of meadow.

SKETCH XX.

THE VALLEY OF THE AVON.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Christchurch . . .	24640	23464	5994
Holdenhurst . . .	7320	4983	905
Sopley	3790	4361	989
Ringwood	8050	12677	3700
Burley	2500	692	485
Ellingham	1860	2026	350
Ibsley	870	1064	325
Harbridge	2700	2190	300
Fordingbridge . .	5720	9933	3073
Rockbourne . . .	3800	2791	469
Breamore	3440	3644	647
South Charford . .	280	937	62
North Charford . .	570	740	54
Hale	1210	1213	209

THAT portion of the valley of the Salisbury Avon which is in Hampshire, not only forms one of the natural divisions, but constitutes one of the magisterial divisions of the county, taking its name from the town of Ringwood. The course of the river, including its meanderings, is nearly thirty miles in length, from Hale on the north, till its junction with the Stour on the south, below the town of Christchurch, where their joint waters expanding into a wide sheet is known as Christchurch harbour. This stream was at one period the western boundary of the kingdom of Wessex, and on the high ground on either side are numerous traces of encampments, some of which are supposed to be as early as the time of the Romans.

The parish of *Christchurch*, situated at its southern extremity, and by far the largest county, derives its name from its priory church, dedicated to Our Blessed Saviour. It comprises the borough of Christchurch,

formerly Thuinam or Twynambourn, the chapelry of Hinton Admiral, and the tythings of Bure, Burton, Sheet, Winkton, Hurn, Iford, Parley and Tuckton, of which Thuinam, Burton, Hurn, Iford and Parley are mentioned in the Domesday Book as separate manors.

The town of Christchurch is probably of Saxon origin, there being no evidence that the site was occupied as a British town or settlement, and all that can be said in support of the supposition that here was a Roman station is that about fifty years ago, the proprietor of the ancient priory discovered within its precincts in a cavity two feet deep, covered and lined on all sides with square stones, cemented with lead, a large quantity of the bones of herons, bitterns, cocks and hens, mostly well preserved, which led a local historian to the conclusion that the site had originally been occupied by a heathen temple, perhaps a fane dedicated to Mars, since the cock (the bones and spurs of which bird were in great abundance in this repository) was esteemed as singularly agreeable to this warlike deity. The deduction is plausible, but not sufficient to found a belief that here stood a Pagan temple, especially in the absence of vessels, inscriptions, and other well known Roman remains.

By the Saxons the town was called Twynhambourne, or the town of two bourns, from its situation at the confluence of the two rivers Avon and Stour, and the first mention we have of it is at the commencement of the tenth century, when its castle was seized by Ethelwold the son of Ethelred, an elder brother and predecessor of Alfred the Great, who raised a fruitless opposition to the succession of Edward the Elder. In the following reign, that of Athelstan, there is another mention of the town in connexion with divers lands given for pious purposes, probably to the priory then recently founded.

In the reign of William the Conqueror, Christchurch, or rather Thuinam, was a royal manor and borough, the former containing thirteen ploughlands, a mill, and sixty-one acres of meadow, and was worth £10, but paid a rent of £12 10s. and thirty-one messuages, which

paid a yearly tax of 16d. There belonged to the priory, six ploughlands, a mill, and 108 acres of meadow, and six messuages in the borough, the whole of the tythe of this manor, and a third of that of Holehest.

Henry I. conferred the manor, with several others in this neighbourhood, on Richard de Redvers, in whose family it remained nearly two centuries, and to whom the inhabitants of the town are indebted for their first municipal privileges. It afterwards formed part of the possessions of the Montacutes, Earls of Salisbury, and in the reign of Henry VIII. was held by their descendant, Margaret Countess of Salisbury. This illustrious lady, the last in a direct line of the house of Plantagenet, was, at the age of 70, attainted of high treason, and found guilty by Parliament, for holding a correspondence with her son Dr. Reginald, afterwards Cardinal, Pole, who had thrown himself under the protection of the Pope, but our English Bluebeard, who had no more pity for an aged relative than for a wife, after detaining her two years in prison gave orders for her execution, which took place within the tower of London, 1541.

The manor of Christchurch reverted to the crown, by whom it was held till after the accession of the House of Stuart, when James I. vested it, with several other manors, in certain trustees for the use of his son Charles, then Prince of Wales, and afterwards King, after whose accession it was granted to four persons to be held at the annual rent of £30 14s. 10d. to hold the same in fealty only, and not as tenants in capite or by knights service. In the reign of Charles II. the manor was held by the famous Earl of Clarendon, who, desirous of improving the town, caused a survey to be made of the river Avon, with the view of making it navigable from Christchurch to Salisbury, and for the purpose of improving the harbour. The report of Captain Yarranton, the hydrographer employed, states that the river might, with ease be made navigable, and a safe harbour, with a good entrance, might be constructed by the removal of a ridge of iron stone at the entrance, which caused the sand

to lodge, and he concluded by stating that no part of the kingdom was better adapted containing a dock yard and a military arsenal, as with a comparatively small cost it might be made impregnable, but before his lordship could carry out his project he was banished the kingdom, and the matter dropped. Towards the close of the same century the manor was purchased by Sir Peter Mews, from whom it descended to Sir George Ivison Tapps, by whom it was sold to the late Right Hon. Sir George Rose, and is now the property of his son the present Sir George Henry Rose.

The most prominent object of Christchurch is its ancient priory church, which though presenting a less imposing appearance than the abbey church of Romsey, is far richer with interesting details. Its great length, 311 feet, exceeding in that particular eight cathedrals, the want of elevation and a central tower, and the lack of external ornament gives to it a comparatively mean appearance. But whatever feeling of disappointment which a view of this portion of the church may create, instantly subsides when one enters the nave, supported with noble Norman columns with their arches enriched with the peculiar ornament of the day, views the long vista with its embowered roof, enters the choir and surveys the richly designed altar screen, the ancient monastic stalls, and the chantry of poor Margaret of Salisbury, and then examines the lady chapel, and other details of this highly interesting pile. Here, at the south-western corner of Hampshire, is a parochial church, in which are preserved the whole of the characteristics of our cathedrals and conventual churches of the middle ages : a choir neither added to, nor diminished, since the mass was celebrated therein, a nave far exceeding in length and beauty many cathedrals ; a lady chapel with a smaller one on either side, a chapel of the Holy Sepulchre, besides numerous smaller chapels and chantries. At Romsey we have the outline of a purely Norman conventual church, at Christchurch, not only the outline, but the details.

No portion of the present structure is probably of higher date than the reign of William Rufus, but as the priory was founded several centuries previously, it is not too much to suppose that the present site has been occupied by a church for nearly a thousand years. The period of the foundation of the priory is not known, although it has by some writers been attributed to Athelstan. In the reign of Edward the Confessor the community consisted of a dean and twenty-four canons.

William Rufus conferred the church, priory and manor on his favourite minister, Ralph Flambard, Bishop of Durham, who had been in early life a member of the convent. This prelate displeased with the homely appearance of the conventual buildings, and finding both them and the church extremely out of repair, determined to rebuild the whole on a more extensive and costly scale. For this purpose he took into his own hands the prebends which had been set apart for the canons, allowing to each a small modicum thereof, which the prior Godric considering an invasion of the rights of the convent strenuously, though unsuccessfully, opposed, as within a short period the bishop effected his degradation and obliged him to repair to the continent, from which after the completion of the work he was permitted to return and re-assume the government of the convent. All obstacles being removed, Flambard entirely pulled down the Saxon church and conventual offices and on their site erected the present church, with convenient buildings on the south for the use of the members of the convent, and had began taking steps for the introduction of canons regular, instead of secular canons, when he fell into disgrace with Henry I. who stripped him of all his possessions and obliged him to take refuge in Normandy. Richard de Redvers, who had obtained the grant of the manor, was a benefactor to the church and convent, and his son Baldwin de Redvers effected that which Flambard had attempted, namely the ejection of the secular canons and the substitution of the canons regular of the Augustine order. He granted to the convent various por-

perties in the borough, lands at Herne, Burton and other places in the neighbourhood, the great tythes of Boldre, Lymington, Brockenhurst, Milford, Milton, Hordel, and Holdenhurst in Hampshire, those of Piddleton in Dorsetshire, and the advowson of Sopley, together with divers privileges, amongst which was, that, if any person in the convent was charged with theft, or homicide, the society might hold its own court, free from other jurisdiction, to decide on his guilt or innocence. From other members of the same family, and the Montacutes, Earls of Salisbury, the priory received divers extension of privileges and numerous possessions, that at the dissolution of the Religious House the Commissioners appointed to visit Christchurch reported that the demense of the house are large and varied, and some of them are at the distance of twenty miles from the monastery.

The last prior of Christchurch was John Draper, suffragan Bishop of Naples, who had held the office twenty years, when the Act for the suppression of the larger monasteries came into force. He was "a very conformable person," and obtained the reward of his servility in an annual pension of £133 6s. 8d. and a part of the manor of Somerford, which till then had served as a grange to the priory. Eighteen of the canons also experienced the favour of the crown, probably because they had willingly complied with the bidding of their superior. The sub-prior had an annual pension of £10, whilst the pensions of the canons varied from £6 to £7. The annual revenues of the priory amounted to £312 7s. 9d. according to Dugdale, and to £544 6s. 0d. according to Speed, which have subsequently passed into divers hands. The site of the monastic offices was granted, among other things, to Stephen Kirton and Margaret his wife, to hold of the king in capite by the service of a fortieth part of a knight's fee and the rent of 31s. 6½d.; and by letters patent, the church and church-yard, with every thing there appertaining, were granted to the churchwardens and inhabitants of the town.

The exterior of the church presents specimens of the

several styles of architecture which successively prevailed between the close of the eleventh and the middle of the sixteenth century. On the north-side there is a large porch, which, although possessing some very interesting details, is far from adding to the appearance of the exterior. At the west-end there is a square embattled tower, 120 feet high, erected in the fifteenth century. Over the door leading into the nave there is a perpendicular window thirty feet high, and above it is a figure of the Saviour, standing in a canopied niche, with his right hand raised, a cross in his left, and a crown of thorns on his head. The nave, about 150 feet in length, is separated from its aisles by a double row of massive square pillars, ornamented with demi columns, from which spring semicircular arches richly ornamented with zigzag mouldings. The arches of the second story are also of a Norman character, but those of the third are Early English. The vaulting is of wood, but it is supposed that it was originally like that of the choir, stone, and is about sixty feet from the floor. The south aisle is of the same period as the nave, but the north aisle is more than a century later. The nave with the transepts is appropriated to the performance of divine worship on Sundays, but here is no altar, the communion service being read from the desk. The sittings are benches resembling those in use in the middle ages, and well accord with the architecture on every side. By the removal of a tasteless gallery a once handsome Gothic stone screen on which was the ancient roof loft was brought to light, but an organ still destroys its effect.

The north transept displays evident marks of Norman foundation, and adjoining it on the east are two chantries, probably erected by some member of the Montacute family, in one of which is a curious altar tomb, with the full length effigies in alabaster of a knight and his lady, traditionally recorded to have been erected to the memory of Sir John Chidiok of Dorset and his wife, the former of whom perished in one of the battles

fought during the struggle between the rival houses of York and Lancaster.

The choir, the most interesting portion of the church, is lighted on either side by four noble windows, apparently inserted during the fifteenth century. The ramifications of the vaulting are handsome, whilst the bosses and intersections are all ornamented with small busts in various habits. The ancient stalls of wainscot oak and curiously carved, are in a high state of preservation. They are in number thirty-six, of which three have canopies, and below them there as many seats with arms; these are what were known in Catholic times by the name of misereres, and exhibit various specimens of grotesque satirical carving supposed to be intended for the mendicant friars. In one instance a friar is represented under the emblem of a fox, with a cock for his clerk, preaching to a set of geese, who are greedily listening to him; and in another a zany, who having turned his back upon his dish, has his portion licked up by a friar in the guise of a dog. The altar is approached by a flight of four steps, on the uppermost of which is a flat monumental stone, to the memory of Baldwin de Redvers who died in 1216.

The altar piece, worth the pilgrimage of many a mile to view, is a curious specimen of ancient carving in wood illustrative of the genealogy of Christ, and is supposed to be coeval with Bishop Flambard. It is divided into several compartments, three of which are at the base, the two outer ones being occupied by a representation of David playing on the harp, and Solomon in a musing attitude. In the centre there is the figure of Jesse in a recumbent posture, from whose loins springs the stem of a tree which supports a piece of sculpture representing the birth of Christ, with the Virgin seated with the child Jesus in her lap to whom one of the wise men is making his offering, whilst behind him are his companions with their gifts in their hands. Above the Virgin are the heads of the ox and the ass, which are surmounted by shepherds and sheep,

the former looking towards a group of angels, immediately over whom God the Father, decorated with wings, extends his arms. Exclusive of these figures, most of which are mutilated, there are thirty-two smaller ones, placed in regular corresponding niches, and also nine larger niches, each of which in the olden time contained the effigy of some saint.

To the north of the altar is the chantry chapel, erected by Margaret Countess of Salisbury, as her burial place. This is the gem of the church, and exhibits much of that florid beauty for which that age is remarkable. The vaulting is intersected in an elegant manner having, a representation of the Holy Trinity within a circle in the centre, and the figure of the Countess kneeling at the feet of God the Father. The original beauty of this elegant chantry has suffered from mutilation from the meanest of human passions; for fanatical zeal there is an excuse, for personal spite there is none. Yet such or worse were the motives that induced the myrmidons of our eighth Harry to deface one of the most elegant erections of the day, it being stated by the Commissioners appointed by Cromwell to visit the monasteries in this portion of the kingdom. "In the church, (Christchurch) we found a chapel and monument made of Caen stone, prepared by the late mother of Reginald Pole for her burial, which we have caused to be defaced, and all the arms and badges clearly to be *delete* (blotted out)." Yet what have they done, have they raised the character of their patron, of whom it is said he spared no man in his wrath or woman in his lust. The tear may fall in remembrance of the sufferings of *poor Peggy* out execrations deep if not loud will be the portion of *ld Harry*.

Underneath the upper portion of the choir is a crypt, now used as a mausoleum for the family of the Earl of Malmesbury, where may be seen the remains of an altar, at which the sacrifice of the mass was wont to be offered for the repose of the souls of the family of Baldwin de Redvers, which also was their place of interment.

The lady chapel, at the eastern extremity of the building, is supposed to have been erected by Sir Thomas West, at the close of the 14th century, and who by his will ordered his body to be interred in the *New* chapel, and bequeathed £100 towards the completion of the works of the church. The ancient altar, above which is some elegantly carved work, and several confessional recesses still remain, as well as two altar tombs supposed to belong to the West family. Over the chapel is a large room called St. Michael's loft, which has been used as the Free Grammar School Room ever since the year 1662. Its original purpose is unknown, and its approach is by a flight of steps alike inconvenient and dangerous.

Among the sepulchral memorials of the place are flat stones, once ornamented by inlayings of brass, to the memory of several ancient priors. Under an open arch on the south side of the choir is a cenotaph to the memory of the late Countess Fitzharris, and is considered to be one of the best productions of Flaxman. At the back of the altar screen there is a handsome monument to Gustavus Brander, esq. a resident of the town, who died in 1787, and consists of a sarcophagus and urn of white marble.

The living is a vicarage, to which is annexed that of Holdenhurst, in the patronage of the dean and chapter of Winchester, of the annual value, according to the Parliamentary Returns, of £165. The Earl of Malmesbury is the impropriator of the great tythes of both parishes, which have been commuted at a rent charge of £3,200. The date of the foundation of the Grammar School, which has an income of £16, is unknown, but it is supposed to be a remnant of the old priory establishment. The corporation are the governors, and in it ten boys are taught reading, writing and arithmetic. The town is rich, in proportion to its population, in charitable bequests, amounting to £250, of which Clinigan's charity has an income of £127, and is applied to the apprenticing children.

The borough received its first Parliamentary summons in the reign of Edward I. but made no return till that of Elizabeth, from which period it returned, without interruption, two members till the passing of the Reform Act, when the number was reduced to one, and the borough extended so as to include the whole of the parishes of Christchurch and Holdenhurst. Although the town never was incorporated by royal charter, it has from time immemorial had its mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, the former of whom is annually sworn in before the lord of the manor or his deputy. The town-hall, under which is the market-place, is a neat building supported by large square pillars of stone, and is situated at the junction of the two principal streets. The market is held on Monday, and two annual fairs, one on Trinity Thursday, and the other on October the 17th. Christchurch is the centre of a Poor Law Union, comprising the parishes of Christchurch, Holdenhurst, and Sopley.

At a short distance from the church, towards the north-east, and close to the Avon, are the remains of a Norman castle, probably erected by Richard de Redvers consisting of the ruins of the keep, and a stone building about a hundred yards to the east of it, which probably was the hall of the constable or governor. The former stands on an artificial mound raised about twenty feet, the walls on the east and west sides are partly standing, and show that they formerly enclosed an area of twenty-eight by twenty-four feet, and are ten feet thick and above twenty in height. The latter is about seventy feet in length, and nearly thirty broad, with walls of great thickness.

The town stands low, and consists principally of two lines of streets under different names. It has long been famous for its salmon fishery, which, at one period, produced a rental of £1000 a year. Its harbour is spacious, but, from various local causes, it is too dangerous and shallow to be frequented by vessels of any magnitude. On its southern side, on a narrow slip of land, which

terminates on the west by a long promontory known as Hengistbury, or Christchurch Head, there are the remains of an ancient entrenchment, consisting of a fosse and double rampart, with three entrances, the northern of which is flanked by two irregular mounds, and between this and the middle entrance the works are the most perfect; the southern extremity is partly obliterated by the sand hills, which are heaped on this coast. On St. Catherine's Hill, about a mile and a half to the north-west of the town, there are to be seen the remains of another encampment, forty-five feet square, doubly trenched on every side except the south, with three entrances. Several small mounts are scattered round the encampment, and not far from the foot of the hill are two large barrows, one of which was found to contain human bones.

The fashionable watering place and pleasantly situated town of *Bournemouth* is partly within the parish, though at the distance of five miles south-east from the town of Christchurch. Within a few years a handsome and spacious hotel, a range of commodious baths, on the shore, and a series of elegant detached villas of picturesque character have been erected. Already it has become a fashionable resort, and promises to become one of the most attractive watering places on the southern coast. Recently a church has been erected and endowed, and a district allotted to it out of the parishes of Christchurch and Holdenhurst.

The chapelry of *Hinton Admiral*, though in the parish of Christchurch, is a donative curacy, in the patronage of the trustees of the late Sir G. Tapps Gervis, of Hinton House, of the annual value of £72. The church is a plain brick building, with a square tower at the west-end, and is seated in Hinton Park, near to the road leading from Southampton to Bournemouth.

There is also a chapel of ease at Bransgore, in the patronage of the vicar, of the annual value of £73, and within a short period a handsome district church has been erected and endowed at Highclift, near the

seat of Lord Stuart de Rothsay, known as Rothsay castle, which stands at a short distance from the sea, that is here making fearful inroads, and it is supposed that within thirty years this noble mansion must be pulled down, as was the case with a house erected nearer the shore by the celebrated Earl Bute.

Heron, or more properly Hurn Court, the seat of the Right Honourable the Earl of Malmesbury, is situated about three miles to the north-west of the town of Christchurch. The manor of Hurn, or Herne, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as containing one ploughland, and half a fishery which paid two pence. The mansion owes its present appearance to the late earl, and is in the Elizabethian style of architecture. The grounds are flat, but are ornamented and diversified by the very luxuriant growth of the elm trees; and the pleasure grounds and shrubberies, from the soil and sheltered situation, offer a greater variety of delicate trees and shrubs than is commonly met with in the open ground.

The parish of *Holdenhurst* is situated between that of Christchurch and the county of Dorset. The church, a handsome structure, in the later English style, with a campanile turret, was erected in 1833, at the expence of £1,200.

The parish of *Sopley* adjoins that of Christchurch to the north and consists of four tythings, Avon, Shirley, Ripley, and Sopley, of which the three latter are mentioned in the Domesday Book, and one of them, Shirley, as giving its name to a hundred. The church, an ancient edifice, is supposed to be one of the smallest cruciform structures in the kingdom, and the living is a vicarage, in the gift of H. C. Compton, esq. M.P. of the annual value of £330. A district church has also been lately erected, and endowed with the interest of £1000, by the Winchester Diocesan Society. The village is pleasantly situated on the eastern bank of the river Avon, over which is a ford, said to have been crossed by Sir William Tyrrel, on his way to Poole,

after the death of Rufus, and which still bears his name. Near the road from Christchurch to Salisbury, there are two large sepulchral barrows, situated in Derrat lane, or Danes-rout lane, so called, it is supposed from the rout of the Danes in that place.

Ringwood, the next parish to the north, is divided into five tythings; Ringwood town, North Ashley, Ristern and Crow, Burley and Kingston. The town of Ringwood, situated on the eastern bank of the Avon, is of considerable antiquity, and was a flourishing place previous to the Norman invasion. Camden gives to the town a British origin, being led by its present name to set it down as the *Regnum* mentioned by Antonius, which would give to the town an antiquity of nearly 2,000 years. On this point he is at variance with other antiquarians, who consider that Chichester occupies the site of the ancient *Regnum*, in which they are upheld by the fact that the kingdom of the *Regni*, of which *Regnum* was the capital, consisted of the counties of Surrey and Sussex, whilst Ringwood is situated in the district occupied by the *Belgæ*, which extended from the eastern borders of Hampshire to the Bristol Channel. The name of the town was probably derived from the manor called Kingswood, (as in the reign of Edward the Confessor, as well as in that of William the Conqueror, it was a royal demesne,) and corrupted into its present name by having been called by the Norman scribes *Rincevede*. The manor is thus noticed in the Domesday Book:—"The king holds Rincevede in demense, which was held by Earl Tosti (brother of King Harold), and then assessed at twenty-eight hides, but is now assessed at nothing. When it was granted to the sheriff there were only ten hides, the remainder being in the Isle of Wight. There are now only six hides, the remainder being in the Forest. Here are sixteen ploughlands, four held in demesne, and fifty-six villagers and twenty-one borderers who employ thirteen ploughs, and one Radchenister which occupies half a ploughland. Here is a church to which belongs half a hide in charity. Here are eight servants, and a mill which pays 22s. and

105 acres of meadow; it was worth in the reign of Edward the Confessor, £24, and is now worth £8. 10s. but pays a rent of £12. 10s. On the four hides, which are now in the Forest, dwelled fourteen villagers and six borderers, who occupied seven ploughlands; here was also a mill which paid thirty pence, and woods which furnished 189 hogs for the pannage." From the above it would appear that Ringwood, eight centuries ago was a place of some importance, with a population scarcely less than 600. There is no historical event connected with the town, which perhaps never contained a larger population than at present. It gives its name to one of the divisions of the county; is also one of the polling places for the southern division of the county, and the centre of a Poor Law Union, consisting of the parishes of Ringwood, Ibbesley, Harbridge, Ellingham, and the vill of Burley. It has a weekly market and two annual fairs, held July 10th and Dec. 11th. Sixty years ago it had an extensive trade in leather, stockings, druggets, and narrow cloths, but these manufactures have declined; whilst not a town in this portion of the kingdom was more famed for its strong beer. The church is an ancient and spacious structure, but its original architecture, which was of the Early English character, has been almost effaced by successive alterations. The churchyard is planted with lime trees interspersed with yews, whose branches form a canopy to the southern porch. The living is a vicarage of the annual value of £960, in the patronage of the Provost and Fellows of King's College, Cambridge, who are also the impropiators of the great tythes, which formerly belonged to the monastic establishment in the neighbouring parish of Ellingham. The grammar school was founded by Richard Lynne, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but since that time has received further endowments. The instruction prescribed is reading and writing, the Latin tongue, godly discipline, and all manner of humane doctrine, and the freedom extends to children of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, and has an income amounting to £32. 17s. 6d; but for many

years it has not been conducted as a grammar school, and at the time of the investigation sixteen poor boys were taught reading, writing, and arithmetic by an assistant, to whom the master paid £10. There is a district church in the tything of Bistern, re-erected a short time since by John Mills, esq. of Bistern House. The manor of Bistern is mentioned in Domesday Book by the name of Betestre, and the adjoining manor, Crow, as Crone; the former containing three ploughlands, five villagers, four borderers, and thirty-two acres of meadow; and the latter three villagers, five borderers, and thirty-six acres of meadow.

In this portion of the country extra-parochial places are not only numerous, but extensive; thus the vill of Burley, to the west of Ringwood, and within the jurisdiction of the Forest, consists of 2,500 acres, and a population of nearly 500; Linwood, likewise in the Forest, consists of 780 acres, with a population of 14. The population of other extra-parochial places in the neighbourhood are as follows:—Godshill Wood near Fordingbridge, 245; Ogdens, 80; Woodgreen, 400; Broomylodge, 13; Linford, 24; Roe inclosure, 4; Burley Lodge, 21; Toulford, 25; Picked Post, 29, and Shorley, 32. All these places are situated within the limits of the New Forest, and were originally no other than wastes, as Burley, or encroachments on the property of the crown. Till lately, the inhabitants escaped the payment of the county rate, and were formerly regarded as rural Alsatians. Within the last few years a church has been erected and endowed at Burley.

About two miles to the north of Ringwood, and on the same side of the river, we have the little village of *Ellingham*, the manor of which is mentioned in Domesday Book under the name of Adelinge ham, and was held of the king by Cola his huntsman. In the reign of Henry II. a subordinate monastic establishment, being a cell belonging to the abbey of St. Saviour a Le Vicompte, was established here, which, on the suppression of the Alien Priories were, with its possessions, including the great tythes and the advowson of the

vicarage of Ellingham, conferred by Henry VI. on his newly erected college at Eton, which still enjoys the impropriation, and patronage of the benefice. The present church is supposed to have been a portion of the original building, and near it are traces of foundations on which probably stood the edifice. The altar-piece displays a fine painting representing the Day of Judgment, which in 1702 was brought to England by Brigadier Windsor, having been taken out of the Catholic churches at Port St. Mary, in the bay of Cadiz, when it was plundered and ransacked by the English, and was presented to the church by one of his descendants, Lord Windsor, long resident of the parish. The value of the vicarage is estimated at £160. Moyles Court has obtained a little celebrity in consequence of having been the residence of Dame Alicia Lisle, widow of John Lisle the regicide, who was executed at Winchester, Sept. 3, 1685, on the charge of having given shelter to two of the adherents of the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth. In the church-yard a stone marks the spot where the body of Lady Lisle was interred; and at Moyles Court a dark closet is shown as the place where the fugitives were concealed.

The next parish to the north, and on the same side of the river, is *Ibbesley*. Nothing can be more picturesque than the appearance of the village, situated on the most delightful spot on the road between Salisbury and Christchurch, which passes between the Avon, here spanned by an ancient bridge, and the houses of the place built on rising ground, having in front pleasant gardens, and some of them presenting a very quaint appearance. The church is an ancient structure, but the chancel has recently been rebuilt by Lady Coote. Ibbesley, which is a chapelry of the vicarage of Fordingbridge, is called Tibeslie in the Domesday Book, and at that time contained a mill, and furnished annually to its proprietor 700 eels.

Harbridge, on the opposite side of the river, is a chapelry annexed to the vicarage of Ringwood, and the church, which was rebuilt in 1839, at the expense of

Lord Normanton of stone from the Isle of Purbeck, has a handsome square embattled tower surmounted by turrets. The interior contains 230 sittings, of which 212 are free, and is handsomely fitted up, the seats being open, and the windows decorated with stained glass.

Still proceeding northward we have the parish of *Fordingbridge*, signifying a place at which a bridge was erected where previously there had been a ford or passage through the water. The town existed before the Norman Conquest, and in its neighbourhood were fought many desperate battles between the Saxons and the Britons. In the reign of William the Conqueror it contained a church and two mills; but the manor, called Ford, was of little value, exceeding no more than sixty shillings. Here are no historical events to relate; it has been a small country town for ages, and such for ages it will probably remain. It has a market on Saturdays, and an annual fair on the 9th of September. It is the centre of a Poor Law Union, consisting of six parishes in Hampshire and three in Wiltshire. The church is a large and handsome structure, with windows of a decorated character, and the roof surrounded by a parapet, with a square embattled tower rising from the transept, and has a large east window beautifully enriched with flowing tracery. The living is a vicarage in the patronage of the Provost and Fellows of King's College, Cambridge, who are the impropiators of the great tythes, commuted at £1,250; and those of the vicar have also been commuted at £670. At Godshill, about two miles from the town, on the east, there are the remains of an ancient encampment, defended on one side by a double trench and ramparts, and secured on the other by the steepness of the hill, which is now overgrown with oaks.

Rockbourne is the adjacent parish to the north-west, and forms a projection into the county of Wilts, by which it is almost entirely surrounded. The church is an ancient structure, but the chancel has lately been

rebuilt, and contains a handsome monument to the memory of Sir Eyre Coote, the captor of Pondicherry in the East Indies. The living is a donative curacy in the patronage of Lady Coote, of the annual value of £624.

The adjoining parish to the east is *Breamore*, where existed, previous to the Reformation, an Augustine Priory. Breamore and Rockbourne are mentioned in the Domesday Book as being held by the king, and were probably a portion of the possessions conferred on Richard de Redvers by Henry I. as, towards the latter end of the reign of that monarch, Baldwin, the son and successor of Richard de Redvers, in conjunction with his uncle, Hugh de Redvers, founded at Breamore the before-mentioned priory, which they endowed with the manors of Breamore, Rockbourne, Whitchbury, Hale, and Charford. At its suppression its annual revenues amounted to £200. 5s. 1½d, and were granted by Henry VIII. to Henry, Marquis of Exeter. The living is a donative in the patronage of the impropiator of the tythes, the Rev. T. C. May, and is of the annual value of £540.

Breamore House, the residence of Sir Charles Hulse, formerly belonged to the priory, and after passing through several hands was purchased by Sir Edward Hulse, the grandfather of Sir Charles, in the year 1748. The house, built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, stands on an elevated situation, about a mile from the river Avon, eight miles from Salisbury, and three from Fordingbridge, and has a peculiarly interesting character, being composed of bricks with numerous gables, having stone quoins at all the gables; and is also remarkable for the size and loftiness of the rooms, unusual in the age in which it was built. The front extends one hundred and twenty feet. There is a very handsome old oak staircase, and the hall is forty-three feet long, and is filled up with a collection of sarcophagi, and various other articles, brought from Rome about a century ago by Smart Lethieuller, esq. an antiquary of considerable

note. The park and grounds are ornamented with many fine old trees, and there is a curious flower-garden, arranged with old yew hedges, in compartments, with hot-houses, green-house, &c. The house is surrounded by about 3,000 acres, in a ring fence, besides other farms.

To the north of Breamore we have the two little parishes of *South* and *North Charford*. The latter is returned in the *Liber Ecclesiasticus* as a donative, but for many years the church has been in ruins. The name of Charford is supposed to have been derived from Cerdic, the Saxon chief, who founded the kingdom of the West Saxons, or Wessex, more than 1,300 years ago, and here totally defeated the Britons. The parish of *Hale*, situated on the opposite or eastern side of the Avon, is a donative in the gift of Joseph Goffe, esq. of the annual value of £122.

SKETCH XXI.

SOUTHAMPTON.—HISTORIC SKETCH.

And in Southampton,
Linger your patience, and we'll digest
Th' abuse of distance.—SHAKESPEARE.

THE phases of Southampton have greatly changed during the last ten hundred years. At first a rude Saxon town, the inhabitants principally subsisting on fishing and agriculture; at the Norman conquest rose its stately castle, followed by embattled walls and a deep moat, the ancient fortifications of the town, and by the accession of the house of Plantagenet, and our connexion with Guienne and Gascony, it became a place of considerable importance, and for several centuries enjoyed the monopoly of being the only port for the importation of wine into this country. In the 14th and 15th centuries it was the place from which embarked the forces raised by our monarchs for the prosecution of their claim to the crown of France. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Southampton was noted for the beauty of the High-street, the quaint and variegated character of the gables of its houses, and for the noble mansions situated in the town. During the reigns of the Stuarts, and our earlier Georges it had fallen from its high estate; its population had decreased, one of its ancient churches was pulled down and its stately mansions allowed to go into decay; but at the latter end of the last century the sun of prosperity again beamed on the old town, and in a short time it became a fashionable watering place, and the permanent residence of many families of distinction. Within the present century the population and trade have increased far be-

yond what they were at any former period. Their strides within the few last years have been gigantic;—the population, no longer confined within the ancient walls, covers a tract exceeding as four to one, the space occupied by the houses in the time of the Plantagenets and Tudors, whilst the trade consists not merely of wine from the south of France, but treasures from “either Ind” are here landed on the British shore, while ships from every clime and nation make for the port of Southampton. Its commerce rests itself not on obsolete charters of monopoly, but on the natural advantages of the place and the energy and perseverance of its merchants.

Antiquarians are divided in opinion as to the derivation of the name, and likewise as to the antiquity of Southampton. The former, by some it is contended, is derived from the Saxon words *Ham* or *Hama*, signifying a house, home, or collection of houses in a secure situation, and *ton* a town; and by others that it owes its name to *Anton*, the supposed ancient name of the estuary, both agreeing that its prefix was conferred to distinguish it from Northampton, in the county of the same name. With regard to the latter, there are some who maintain that it was a place of such importance at an early period after the establishment of the kingdom of the West Saxons as to give its name to the present county, whilst others think that the town did not emerge from obscurity till after the Norman Conquest. The first mention made of Hamtun is in the Saxon Chronicle, which states that Sigebert, King of Wessex, was in the year 755 deprived of his dominions, with the exception of Hamtun-scyre. By the local historians of Southampton it is contended that Hamtun-scyre was of the same extent as the present Hampshire, and that Hamtun or Southampton was its principal town; but they adduce no evidence in support of their first assumption, whilst the latter falls to the ground, as Winchester was at the time the regal and episcopal capital of the kingdom of Wessex.

With the exception of the above, the only notices we have of Southampton prior to the Norman Conquest are, that two mints were established in it by King Athelstan, and that it was several times the landing-place of the Danes during their repeated hostile visits to England. In the year 833 they landed from a fleet of thirty-three galleys, and having taken and plundered the town and devastated the neighbouring country, were repulsed and driven back to their ships. Twenty-two years later they again landed at Southampton, and advancing into the country made themselves masters of Winchester, but as they were returning with the spoil they had collected, they were overtaken by the enemy and routed with great slaughter. During the reign of Ethelred II, or Unready, the town twice fell into the hands of the Danes, and was held by Sweyne, King of Denmark, and Olaus King of Normandy as a security for the sum of £16,000 which Ethelred had agreed to pay them on condition that they should not again invade England.

In the Domesday Book the following mention is made of the town, which shows that even then it was a borough, and consequently a place of some note and importance. "In the borough of Hamtune the King has seventy-nine men in demesne, who pay a land-tax of seven pounds, who also paid the same to King Edward (the Confessor); twenty-seven of them pay eightpence each, two of them pay tweldepence each, and the remaining fifty pay sixpence each;" and that, after King William came to England, sixty-five Frenchmen and thirty-one Englishmen were provided with houses at Hampton; and further, that the Abbess of Wherwell had here a fishery, and a small plot of ground which formerly paid 100 pence, and at that time ten shillings. The possessions held by our English sovereigns in France, a portion of which they retained till the surrender of Bordeaux 1453, raised the town of Southampton into first-rate importance. Many of our kings in visiting their continental dominions, either in peace or war,

embarked from hence, and for several centuries the importation of foreign wines was confined almost entirely to this port.

Henry I. is supposed to have made it a borough by a charter, confirmed and extended by Henry II. The oldest one in existence is that of King John, which exempted the burgesses from toll, passage and pontage by sea and land, in fairs and in markets throughout his whole dominions, as well as on this side of the sea as beyond. He also granted them the port of Portsmouth on farm, for which, together with the farm of Southampton, they were to pay £200 yearly. In the reign of Henry III. the Barons of the Cinque Port became very troublesome to the merchants of Southampton by frequently attaching their persons and seizing their goods under pretended reference to ancient grants, but these outrages being stated to the king, he issued a warrant commanding the barons to desist from their outrages, and four years afterwards invested the town with new privileges by charter, bearing date 1256.

In the year 1205 the burgesses of Bristol resisted the payment of toll on their mercantile dealings at Southampton, on the ground of their being exempted by their own charter from such charges, and proceeded in the King's Bench against the bailiffs of Southampton, who pleaded the charter of Henry III. granting to them the privilege that they should not be impleaded without their own borough, and they not only prevailed on this occasion, but the privilege was confirmed by subsequent monarchs. In support of their rights, or attempted encroachments, the burgesses subsequently became embroiled in litigation with the Abbey of Netley, the merchants of Spain, the citizens of Winchester and Salisbury, and lastly the burgesses of Lymington.

About the same period, the inhabitants persisting in continuing their ordinary course of commercial dealing during the holding of St. Giles's fair, which at the time extended to fourteen days, when it was not allowed by the charter for any shops to be kept open within

twelve miles of the hill, the Bishop of Winchester, who had an interest in the fair, proceeded against the town in his own ecclesiastical court and fulminated his sentence of excommunication against them for interfering with the privileges of the fair, but to obtain redress, the burgesses proceeded against the bishop in the King's Court, and obtained a verdict in their favour.

At the commencement of the reign of Edward III. the trade of the town was flourishing, and continued so till the war with France, in consequence of his having laid claim to the crown. In the year 1338 the mayor and bailiffs were commanded by writ to cause all ships of forty tons burthen to be victualled and furnished with men-at-arms ready to defend the land in case of an invasion, but before these preparations were completed, the French, with their allies the Spaniards and Genoese, landed from a fleet of fifty galleys, and having slain all who opposed them, entered and plundered the town and afterwards destroyed the greater part of it by fire. This misfortune was but temporary, for by the assistance of the king the town was strongly fortified, and within seven years enabled to furnish towards the royal fleet a larger number of ships and men than any of the neighbouring towns; the following being a list of the proportion furnished in the eighteenth year of the reign of Edward III.

	Ships.			Mariners.		
Southampton	-	-	21	-	-	576
Ile of Wight	-	-	13	-	-	220
Hamble	-	-	11	-	-	208
Lymington	-	-	9	-	-	259
Portsmouth	-	-	5	-	-	96
Poole	-	-	4	-	-	194

During this reign several English armies embarked from this port for Normandy and Guienne, and at the commencement of that of Richard II, the French made another attack on the town which proved unsuccessful, and led to the further strengthening of its fortifications and castle. In the year 1415 the army collected by Henry

V. for the conquest of France, and who afterwards achieved such high honors at Agincourt, embarked at Southampton. Previous to their setting sail a conspiracy against the life of the monarch was discovered and punished, the principals being Richard, Earl of Cambridge, the grandfather of Edward IV, Lord Scroop and Sir Thomas Grey, and for which they suffered death in the town. Shakespeare, and many of our historians, have insinuated that they were bribed by French gold, but I think there is other matter far more explanatory to account for their treason. Cambridge was married to the sister of the imbecile Earl of March, who, if hereditary right had been regarded, would have succeeded the deposed king, Richard II. The object of Cambridge in all probability was to raise the standard of rebellion against the king *de facto*, nominally in favour of his brother-in-law, but in reality for his own child, young Richard, afterwards Duke of York. There are no minutes of the trials of these conspirators; it would have been unwise to have published them, and therefore to delude and inflame the high raised expectations of the soldiery and people. It was said of them that they had

“Join’d with an enemy proclaim’d, and from his coffers,
Received the golden earnest of our death;
Wherein you would have sold your king to slaughter
His princes and his peers to servitude,
His subjects to oppression and contempt,
And his whole kingdom into desolation.”

Perhaps about this period Southampton was in its most prosperous state; it was the principal gathering place of the English armies raised to support the claims of our kings to the French crown, but as the result of those wars was fatal to those claims, so in all probability it was injurious to the commerce of Southampton, which had arisen from our sovereigns' transmarine possessions, and decayed with the loss of them. There is no evidence as to what was the population of the town at that period, in all probability not a quarter what it is at present, and principally confined within the walls. There was a suburb undoubtedly without the

East Gate, and a smaller suburb without the Bar, or North Gate, which must have been small indeed, as it lacked that necessary appendage even to a middling population, a church. The state of the town, even within the walls, in the year 1477, is shown by a petition presented to King Edward IV. from the mayor, sheriffs, and bailiffs, which states—"That the seyde towne is full feibly paved and full perilous and jeopard-douce to ride or go theryn, and in especial in the high stretes of the seid towne, that is to seie from the Barre Gate to the Water Gate, and other ii stretes there gretly occupied with cariage, and for faute of pavyng there, divers your lieges, and other strangers thider resortyng, have been often tymes gretly hurte, and in peril of their lyves."

In the year 1432 the French fleet was again before the town, and in the municipal records are preserved some curious particulars connected with the siege.

On the first news of the invasion, men were sent in all direction to obtain intelligence of the danger, as is shown by the following extracts.

"Item, paid to Rich. Assche for a man to ryde to Portysmothe to bryng redyng tydynges owt of Normandy of the ffrenshmen. xij*d*.

Item, payd to Will. Taylour for hys labour and costes to ryde to Lepe* to inquire tydynges of the ffrenshmen, xj*d*."

Among other preparations of defence, several men were employed helping "the gunner" to make gunpowder for the octasion, who seem to have been not very expert, for one of them has a compensation for damage done to his clothes in this operation.

"To the sayd Johan for a reward for brennyng of hys clothys, ijs.

Another entry runs thus,—

"Item, payd to Davy berebrewere, for a pyp of bere that that was dronke at the Barryeate when the ffurst affray was of the ffrenshmen, vjs. viij*d*."

* Near Lymington.

It appears, from other entries, that artificial sheds of wood were raised to cover the gunners from the enemy's fire, and that the first fight took place *by candle-light*!

"Item, payd for nayles to nayle the bordes to kevere the gonner withall, *iiid.*

"Item, payde for *vii.* of candellus that were wasted in Godeshowe towre and in the bolewerke, that nyght the ffurst affray was, *vd.*

"Item, payd to Ric. Smythe for drynkyng pottes, that were bowght of him when the sowdyers of Salysbery dyned in the ffirres, *ixd.*"

As soon as the Frenchmen were known to be near, the whole town appears to have been in a bustle, and it was so ill provided against the sudden attack, that all the guns seemed to have wanted repairs.

"Item, payde to Sawndere lokyere for the makyng of a band and *ij.* boltes and a cheyne and *viiij.* florlokkes to the gone that standeth in Godeshowe yeate, *xijd.*

Item, payd to the sayd Sawndere for the scowryng of a gone, and to make a new tuche hole therin, *vijd.*

Item, to the sayd Sawndere for twystes and boltes for wyn-dows in the towre, that weythe *xv. li.* at *id.* ob. the *li. xxijd.* ob.

Item, to the sayd Sawndere for *ij.* byndynge of *ij.* gonnes, eyther of theyme with *iiij.* bandes that weyth *xxiiij. li.* at *jd.* ob. the *li. iiijjs.*

Item, to the sayd Sawndere for *iiij.* rynges of yren to set spon schort staves to stoppe gonnes withall, *vijd.*

Item, payd to burgayse Smythe for makyng of a muthe and *v* bolt and *ij.* chekys and a bond and a plate for the gret gonne, that weyed *xliij. li.* prec. the *li. jd.* ob. summa *vs. iiijd.* ob.

Item, payd to tae same burgayse for a bolte and spykes and othere gere made to the westkey yeate, payd by Johan Down, *iijs. xd.* ob."

During the contention between the rival houses of York and Lancaster the inhabitants were divided in their allegiance, and continual skirmishes took place between the two parties, but upon the accession of Edward IV. the latter was entirely subdued, and twenty of the adherents of the Red Rose were condemned and executed, and their carcasses impaled by the king's order.

The Reformation had but little effect on Southampton, as there previously existed but one religious foundation in the town, namely, a Franciscan Friary.

Henry VIII. made Southampton a county of itself, independent of Hampshire, of which it had hitherto formed a part, and the state and condition of the town is best understood by the description given of it by Leland in his *Itinerary*.

"Ther be yn the sai and righte stronge waulle of New Hampton three gates, first barre gate by north large and welle embattelid, in the upper part of this gate is domus civica, and underneath is the toun prison; there is a great suburb without this gate: and ther is a great double dyke well waterid on ache hand without it, and so four tours in the walle, wherof the three as a corner towre is very faire and strong to the est gate."

"The est gate is stronge, but nothing so large as the barre gate; there is suburbe without this gate, and St. Maries the mother chirch of New Hampton stondyth yn it; ther be vi faire tourres in the walle betwixt the est gate and the south gate, and loke as the towne without. The waulle is double diked, from the castelle to barre gate; and so to est gate; so it it from est gate almost even to south gate. The south gate stondith not even ful south, but south-est; and there is joined to it a castlet, welle ordinancid to bete that quarter of the haven."

"There is another meane gate, a little more south, caullid Goddeshouse gate, of an hospital yoined to ie; and not far beyond it is a fair gate, caullid the Water-gate, without the which is (a fair square) Key, forcid with piles into the haven water for ships to resort to. There are three tourres to the west gate. The west gate is strong, and even without it is a large key for shippes, as ther is without the water gate. Ther is two gates beside, whereof one is a posterno, and the other is by the castelle."

"The glorie of the castelle is yn the dungeon, that is both large, fair, and very stronge, both by worke and the site of it."

"Ther be five parochie chirches withyn the toun of Hampton, the Holie-rood chirch stondith in the chief street of the toun."

"There was a colleige of grey freeres in the south-est part of the towne, touching the toun walle, betwixt the est and the south-est gates."

"There is an hospitale in the town, toward the south, called Goddeshouse, wherein is a chappelle, dedicated to Saint Juliane."

"Ther be three principal streates in Hampton, whereof that goeth from the barre-gate to water-gate, is one of the fayrest streates ihat ys yn any town of al England, and it is well bilded for timbre building: there ys a faire house buileed in the middle of this streate for accomptes to be made yn. Ther cummith fresh water into Hampton by a conduct of lead, and ther be certen castelletes onto this conduct withyn the town."

"There be many fair merchaunts houses in Hampton, but the chiefest is the house that Huttoft, late customer of Hampton, builded in the west side of the toun."

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Southampton was famous for the number and beauty of its buildings, the affluence of its inhabitants, and as the resort of many merchants. In the year 1588, the port had eight ships above 100 tons, seven above 80, and forty-seven under 80; and it is a curious fact respecting the population of Winchester and Southampton about this period, that the former had fallen into such decay as to be capable of furnishing only 90 men fit to bear arms whilst Southampton could supply 420. In the following reign the prosperity of the town appears on the wane, if we may give credit to anything stated in an address to royalty, containing the most fulsome flattery; but in the levy of ship-money, in the reign of Charles I, it was more highly assessed than the neighbouring towns, the following being the proportions:—Southampton, £195; Winchester, £190; Portsmouth, £60; Basingstoke, £60; and Romsey, £30.

The decay of the town and port of Southampton was gradual, and though first occasioned by the loss of our

dominions in France, was accelerated by the gradual rise of Portsmouth and Poole, and still more so by a dreadful visitation of the plague in 1695. Gibson, in his edition of Camden, published in 1693, says that Southampton had lost its trade and most of its inhabitants, and that the great houses of its merchants are now dropping to the ground, and only show its ancient magnificence; and another writer in 1790, states there are here five churches, but that fewer would suffice for the number of its inhabitants.

At the commencement of the reign of George III, Southampton was fortunate enough to attract the attention of the Duke of York, His Majesty's brother, who occasionally resided here, and his example was followed by numbers of the nobility and gentry. From that period for the space of sixty years, the increase of the town in wealth, trade and population, was gradual, but within the last twenty years the increase has been amazing, whilst the character of the place has been changed from that of a fashionable watering place to a busy mercantile port, bidding fair to become in a short time the most important on the southern coast.

The earliest charter granted to the town is that by King John, in the first year of his reign, and is a simple leave of passage to send through all territories subject to him for the purpose of merchandize. The next is that of the 36th Henry III, directed to the Barons of the Cinque Ports, who are ordered to take no cask from Portsmouth, at that time considered part of Southampton; and two other charters were subsequently granted by the same King, whereby the burgesses of Southampton were declared free of arrest, except in certain peculiar cases, and the return of all writs touching Southampton and its liberty, given to them, with permission to choose for themselves coroners, who should be answerable to the Justices in Eyre. Many charters were granted in later times, almost all our kings contributing one or more. That of the 26th of Henry VI. is remarkable, that it gives power to the burgesses to purchase

lands notwithstanding the statute of mortmain, and Portsmouth is distinctly stated as being within the liberty of Southampton, as the mayor in the olden time was admiral of the liberties of the sea and coast from Southsea Castle on the east to Hurst Castle on the west. The charter under which the town was governed till the passing of the Municipal Act, was the one granted by Charles I, but which was no other than a confirmation of more grants.

The borough has returned two members to Parliament from the 23rd year of the reign of Edward I, but the franchise was restricted by the provisions of the Reform Act, as previous to its passing all who paid rates, or as it is commonly called scot and lot, were entitled to vote, in addition to which, there was a considerable number of out-burgesses created by the corporation. The municipal records of the 15th century contain regular entries of the wages then paid to the members, the first notice being in the year 1432, of "xls. being paid to the mayor in part payment of his Parliament wages."

The only monastic establishment that ever existed in Southampton was a house of Grey Friars, founded in 1204, of which scarcely any remains are standing, and which occupied the site of the present Gloucester-square. As it belonged to one of the mendicant orders, its members did not possess any lands, and at its dissolution its revenues amounted to only £5, which, with its site, were granted to Edward Darcy.

SKETCH XXII.

SOUTHAMPTON.—DESCRIPTIVE NOTICE.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.
All Saints	6901	£58,768 15 3
St. Mary	14885	41,208 8 4
Holy Rood	2036	14,212 11 9
St. Lawrence	478	5,933 4 8
St. John	704	5,894 13 10
St. Michael	2149	6,540 4 9
Tything of Portswood .		4,845 3 5

THE town of Southampton is situated on the north-western shore of the estuary which bears its name, at the distance of half a mile north-west from the mouth of the Itchen, and three miles south-east from that of the Test. It has long been famed for the beauty of its High-street, which has been extended by another street called Above Bar to nearly double its original length.

The principal remains of antiquity in Southampton are portions of its ancient castle and walls by which the town was surrounded, the Bar, South and West gates, the churches of St. Michael and Holy Rood, the God's House, and some vaults near the Quay.

The castle was probably erected in the reign of William the Conqueror, but the earliest mention of it is in that of King Stephen, when by the treaty of Wallingford, between Stephen and his rival, afterwards Henry II. Henry de Blois, Bishop of Winchester, who then held the castle, was required to give security that he would surrender the castle into the hands of the latter on the death of the former. Its area, according to Sir Henry Englefield, was of a form approaching to a semicircle, or rather a horse-shoe, of which the town

wall towards the sea formed the diameter, the keep standing on a high artificial mount in the southern part of the area. The office of constable was one of importance during the reigns of the Plantagenets, and was generally conferred on men of repute and renown, who, among other emoluments, received £10. out of the customs of Southampton. In the year 1377, a few days after the death of Edward III, it was attacked by the French, but was successfully defended by Constable Sir John de Arundel, ancestor of the present Duke of Norfolk. To protect the castle against any future attacks it was greatly strengthened, and at the same time the walls of the town were thoroughly repaired, and received a casing of stone, exhibiting a very different style of architecture from that of the original work.

After our sovereigns had virtually abandoned their claim to the crown of France, the castle was dismantled and suffered to fall into decay. In 1635 it was completely in ruins. The only remaining part, supposed to be the donjon, was, at the latter end of the last century, fitted up as a summer house, and was purchased by the late Marquis of Lansdowne, who from time to time added to it, until he had erected a castellated building of considerable size, but after the death of his lordship, in 1809, the property was sold, and all traces of the original castle have been entirely destroyed.

In addition to the castle, it is supposed that our earlier kings had a palace in Southampton, situated in the western part of the town. Sir Henry Englefield conjectures that Canute the Great resided in it at the period of that memorable scene on the neighbouring beach, when his majesty commanded the advancing tide to retire, and presume not to wet his royal feet. That John and Henry III. had some house in the town distinct from the castle, appears from several entries in the Close Rolls, and that the former was a frequent visitor to Southampton is shown by his Itinerary. With regard to the ancient walls which formerly enclosed the town no evidence exists as to the period of their erec-

tion. The whole of the antiquities of Southampton belong to the middle ages, and the probability is that the town was not fortified prior to the Norman Conquest. The Bar, or north-gate, is, perhaps, as old as any portion of the ancient walls; its exterior appearance, however, proclaim that workmen of a later date have been employed upon it. Still, in spite of modern alterations, it presents itself as a remnant of the olden time, while all around it smacks of the newest fashion. On the north front are representations of two gigantic figures, which are traditionally said to be intended to represent Sir Bevois of Southampton and the giant Ascapart, whom, according to popular legends, he slew in combat. There are also on each side of the gateway two rampant lions, cast in lead, presented to the town by William Lee, esq. on the occasion of his being made a burgess in 1744. They replaced two others which were decayed, and which originally stood at the northern extremity of the bridge that crossed the moat. On the south side above the arch is a statue of George III. in Roman costume, presented by the late Marquis of Lansdowne. Over the gateway is the town-hall in which the sessions of the borough are held, for which purpose it has been used for nearly three centuries.

South-gate and West-gate have a less imposing appearance, but are probably of equal antiquity with bar-gate. Adjoining the former is the borough gaol and bridewell, and without the former is the west quay, the place of landing to the castle. St. Michael's church, in the square of the same name, formerly the fish-market, contains various specimens of Norman workmanship. Great alterations have from time to time been made in it; thus, every other column between the nave and aisles have been taken away, and handsome pointed arches turned over them; the aisles have been enlarged, and the rounded Norman windows have given place to those of a perpendicular character. The font is of the same age, character, and materials as that in Winchester cathedral. In the north chancel there is a stately

monument, long supposed to have been erected to the memory of Lord Chancellor Wriothesley, but lately proved to be to the memory of Sir John Lister, Chief Baron of the Exchequer and a resident of the town. At the west end there is a spire of considerable altitude, erected about the middle of the last century. The living is a vicarage in the patronage of the Crown of the annual value of £145.

The church of Holy Rood, situated on the east side of the High-street, appears to have been once collegiate from the presence of some ancient stalls. The west window is a large one of a perpendicular character, but has lost its tracery; and at the front there is a piazza, commonly called "the proclamation," at which the elections were formerly held, proclamations read, and other civic business performed. The living is a vicarage in the gift of the Provost and Fellows of Queen's College, as Warden of God's House in this time. In the year 1291 the value is stated at £4. 6s. 8d; in the reign of Henry VIII. £15. 15s; and in the recent Parliamentary returns at £379. Connected with this benefice, is God's House, situated in Winkle-street, which was founded in the reign of Henry III, but historians do not mention the original purpose of the charity; but in the absence of all evidence on the subject, a conjecture may be raised, namely, that the revenues were intended for the relief of poor pilgrims, not only because St. Julian, to whom the hospital was dedicated, was considered the patron of pilgrims, but the absence of all mention of the number of inmates intended to reside in the hospital, pilgrims being casual visitors, and that within a century, when pilgrimages had gone out of fashion, and when the attention of Englishmen was directed rather to the conquest of France than the recovery of Jerusalem from the possession of the Infidels, the greater portion of its resources were transferred to Queen's College, Oxford. The inmates consist at present of four poor men and four poor women, nominated by the vicar of Holy

Rood, the warden. Queen Elizabeth granted the chapel to the use of the Protestant refugees from the Netherlands, who left their native country in consequence of the persecution under the Duke of Alba, incident to the establishment of the Spanish inquisition. The chapel is of the architecture of the foundation of the hospital, and divine service is performed in the French language, the congregation consisting principally of natives of Jersey and Guerusey resident in Southampton. A tablet on the north wall has been raised to the memory of Richard, Earl of Cambridge, Lord Scrope, and Sir Thomas Grey, who were here interred in 1515. In addition to the above there are in the town the parochial churches of St Mary, All Saints, and St. Lawrence, the episcopal chapels of the Holy Trinity and St. Paul, besides a Catholic chapel, chapels for several denominations of dissenters, and a meeting-house for the Society of Friends.

The present church of St. Mary was erected near the commencement of the last century, and has since that time been enlarged, but is far too small for the parish to which it belongs. In the Domesday Book it is stated that there were two chapels near Southampton which belonged to the church of South Stoneham, one of which appears to have been the church of St. Mary, the rector of which is at the present time the appropriator of the great tythes and the patron of the vicarage of South Stoneham. In the year 1291 the value of the rectory was returned at £53. 6s. 8d. a sum far exceeding the united revenues of all the other benefices in Southampton. The present value is not known, as the Hon. and Reverend Rector refused to make a return, but is supposed to exceed the annual sum of £2,000. Previous to the Reformation it was either collegiate, or there were chantry establishments in it. In former times there was a chapel which stood on the site still known as Chapel Mills, and which was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and on the lands belonging to it a fair is held on Trinity Monday. Near the

church there was a hospital for lepers, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, founded by the burgesses of Southampton. Mr. Duthy supposes that the fields known as Marlands belonged to the hospital, and that the name is only an euphonious abridgement of Magdalen's. At what period the hospital ceased to exist is not known, but it is said that certain tenements belonging to the corporation in St. Mary's churchyard are remnants of the charity.

All Saints church in the High-street, erected towards the close of the last century, is a handsome structure in the Grecian style, with a turret at the east rising from a square pedestal, and surrounded by six Corinthian columns supporting a circular entablature surmounted by a dome. The altar is situated in a recessed arch, and the church is capable of accommodating fifteen hundred persons. The living is a rectory in the patronage of the Crown of the annual value of £400.

The church of St. Lawrence, also in the High-street, has lately been rebuilt at the expense of £3,000, in the later English style of architecture. The living is a rectory, to which is united that of St. John, of the annual value of £148, in the patronage of the Crown. The church of St. John which stood in the burial ground at the lower end of French-street, was pulled down in the reign of Charles II. Trinity Chapel stands near the road leading to Northam bridge adjoining the Penitentiary, and was principally intended for the use of the inmates of its establishment, with an annual endowment of £110, in the patronage of trustees, but the building is open to the public on the plan of other proprietary chapels.

St. Paul's, a proprietary chapel in the parish of All Saints, is a handsome edifice in the later English style, erected in the year 1831. A district church in the Norman style has also been erected, though not yet consecrated, at Hill in the same parish.

The Catholic chapel is in Bugle-street, the congregation of which is so numerous as to require the services of two priests.

The principal Independent chapel is situated above the Bar Gate, and affords accommodation to more than 1,500 persons, but the congregation having become so numerous another chapel has lately been erected in St. Mary-street. The society dates its origin from the passing of the Act of Uniformity in 1662, by which the Rev. Robinson was ejected from the rectory of All Saints. The Baptists have one chapel in East-street and another in Portland-street; the Wesleyans, a chapel in Canal Walk, and the Irvingites one in Bedford Place. There is also a place of worship in Castle-square known as Zion Chapel in which the liturgy of the established church is used; and near to it is the meeting-house of the Society of Friends.

The public charities are numerous, but not in general of large amount. The grammar school founded in 1550, in the will of W. Capon, D.D. has an income of £30. 11s. 4d. The instruction prescribed is Latin, Greek, and the Church Catechism, and the freedom extends to the poor men's children of the town of Southampton, and other scholars of the town, at a low rate. Among other eminent men educated at this establishment was the celebrated Dr. Watts, a native of Southampton, whose father kept a boarding-school in the town.—Taunton's school was founded in 1760 under the will of Alderman Taunton, who bequeathed the bulk of a large property to charitable purposes, by which ten boys are educated, clothed, and apprenticed; sixteen decayed persons in the town receive each the annual pension of £10; and the sum of £40. is appropriated as marriage portions to deserving servants.

Thorner's Almshouses, a neat and commodious range of buildings situate at the northern part of the town, afford accommodation to thirty-two widows, each of whom has an allowance of five shillings weekly. The donor, Robert Thorner, esq. who died in 1690, bequeathed a considerable property for charitable purposes both in Southampton and elsewhere. With the proceeds of a portion of this property the present alms houses

were erected in 1789, but since that period have from time to time been extended, and which will again be the case as the property increases in value.

The Corporation consists of a mayor, ten aldermen and thirty councillors, who hold their meetings in a building situated in the High-street known as the Audit House. Although the present erection is of modern date, the site was dedicated to the same purpose in the reign of Henry VIII. as appears by Leland. Here are kept the records and regalia. The arms of the town appear originally to have been no more than the device of a ship which was common in early times to all seaports, the addition to it having been made during the reign of the Tudor family. The corporation possess the unusual number of six maces, beside the sword of state and the silver oar (the badge of the mayor's maritime jurisdiction.) One of the maces was, not a century ago, carried before the mayoress on all occasions when she appeared with her husband in form, as in going to church, &c. on which occasion she wore a scarlet robe or gown. This custom was not confined to Southampton, as at Winchester the smallest of the four maces belonging to the corporation of that city is called the mayoress's, and, it is said, was carried before her whenever she thought proper to attend worship at the cathedral.

The Market Place, a portion of which is under the apartments used for municipal purposes, extends from the High to French-street. The market-days for fish, poultry, meat, butter, fruit and vegetables, are held on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and for corn on Friday. There are two annual fairs, May 5th and Trinity Monday, the latter of which is opened by the mayor on the Saturday preceding.

Southampton contains many ancient buildings. Some of the houses of the High-street, though they have conformed exteriorly to the newest fashions, preserve in their interiors remains of two or three centuries. The stone cellars in the south of the town are of as early

construction as the 12th and 13th centuries, and some contain pointed arches worthy of a cathedral; but in the parish of St. Michael there are buildings still more ancient, exhibiting features of a Saxon character.

The Quay, noticed by Leland as "a fair Key, forced with piles into the haven water for ships to resort to," has been from time to time extended. Near to it is the Custom House, and at a short distance to the west the Royal Victoria Pier, erected in 1832.

As these Sketches were intended rather to illustrate the antiquities of the county than to describe matters and things of recent date, a brief notice of the Railway Station, Docks, Floating Bridge, &c. is all that can be here inserted without extending them to a greater length than was intended.

The Railway Station stands on a position of the public lands belonging to the inhabitants, and was long known as the Marsh. The plan of a Railway to London was originated in the year 1825, but the Act for carrying it into effect was not obtained till nine years afterwards, nor was the line completed till 1840.

The Docks were incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1836, and the space appropriated to them was the mud land to the south of the Marsh, comprising about two hundred acres, which extends to the mouth of the Itchen, having that river for their eastern boundary. They are formed into two parts, the one a tidal dock and the other a close dock for ships to deliver their cargoes afloat, on the sides of which a range of warehouses have been erected.

The Floating Bridge, by which the distance to Portsmouth and Gosport was shortened by a distance of three miles, commenced running in the early part of the year 1836, but the success of the undertaking has been impaired by the branch Railway from Bishopstoke to Gosport.

There are two Assembly rooms in the town, one called the Long Rooms, situated near the West Quay, erected in 1761, and the other built but a few years since in the

parish of All Saints, first known as the 'Archery and now the Victoria Rooms. The Theatre was erected here in 1766, but this, though subsequently enlarged, was found too small, when the present building was erected at the close of the last century, on the site of an ancient hospital dedicated to St. John.

A Literary and Scientific Institution was established in St. Michael's Square in 1828, and some years later a Mechanics' Institution in Hanover Buildings, which last has changed its name to that of the Polytechnic Institution. The Hants Picture Gallery in the High street was established by H. Buchan, esq. and is well supported. There are two exhibitions in the year, one in the spring for the works of Provincial artists and from the galleries of private gentlemen, and the other in the autumn for the exhibition and sale of the works of living British Artists.

The South Hants Infirmary was established in 1838, but for fifteen years previously there had existed in the town an institution of a somewhat kindred nature, known as the Southampton Dispensary. It is supported entirely by subscription, except a legacy of £75 a year bequeathed by the late Mr. Newman. The County Female Penitentiary, also supported by subscription, was established early in the present century.

Races are held on the Common, a wide extent of waste land belonging to the inhabitants, in the month of July; and a Regatta is also held on the estuary in the month of September.

The public lands of Southampton, though greatly reduced by the formation of the Cemetery, the construction of the Railway and the Floating Bridge, besides private encroachments, probably exceeding in extent those belonging to the inhabitants of any other borough in the kingdom. The Common, comprising several hundred acres, and the Marsh, a portion of which is occupied by the Railway Station belonged exclusively to the town, whilst over the large spaces in the upper part of the town known by the names of Houndwell, Marlands and Hog-

lands, the inhabitants have the right of pasture and recreation for one half of the year, commencing at Michaelmas and terminating at Lady Day.

A Cemetery, long wanted in the town, has recently been formed by inclosing a portion of the Common. It has been tastefully laid out, and is ornamented, in addition to the entrance lodge with two elegant chapels, one for the Church of England, and the other for the different denominations of Dissenters.

The borough of Southampton comprises the town, parishes of All Saints, St. Mary, St. Lawrence, Holy Rood, St. John, and St. Michael, forming one Union; and the tything of Portswood, situated in the parish of South Stoneham. Here was formerly a Priory dedicated to St. Donysius, or Denys, supposed to have been founded by Henry I. whose grandson Henry II. granted to the prior and canons the chapels of St. Michael, St. Cross or Holy Rood, St. Lawrence and All Saints, thus placing the performance of nearly all the religious services of Southampton under the control of this convent. Richard I. made them a grant of a district, even then known as *Kingsland*, and also the wood of *Portswood*. Soon after this the convent obtained the rectory of Chilworth, and among its ancient benefactions was one from William Musard, of 3s. annually, on condition of the canons finding a wax candle to be placed before the altar of the Blessed Virgin, in the church of the monastery where his sister lay buried. By the charter of the 6th of Edward III. the canons were entitled to a pipe of red wine for the celebration of mass, to be given to them by the king's butler at Southampton, and in the same reign the convent was required to furnish their quota of men, for the defence of Southampton against the French, in all probability for the possessions, ecclesiastical and lay, which it held in the town. In the following reign an agreement was concluded between the prior and canons, and the commonalty of Southampton, that Portswood should be rated with Southampton for the king's supplies, to be collected by the alderman of

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Portswood, an officer appointed by the corporation ; the consequence of which was that this tything has, from that time to this, formed a portion of the county of the town of Southampton. At the dissolution of Monasteries, at the Reformation, the convent consisted of a prior and nine canons ; and their revenues, according to Dugdale, amounted to £80 11s. 6d. The remains, such as they are, stand near St. Denys's Farm, and consist of little more than one ruined wall covered with ivy. This appears to have been the south transept of the chapel, and contains in the centre a small pointed window. Various foundations are sometimes met with, but the convent does not appear to have been extensive.

SKETCH XXIII.

THE ENVIRONS OF SOUTHAMPTON.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Millbrook - - -	2900	19967	4232
North Stoneham - -	5900	10006	871
South Stoneham - -	8260	16870	8763
St. Mary's extra - -	2040	5137	1340
Hound - - -	2900	2446	480
Hamble-le-Rice - -	440	1764	398
Bursledon - - -	830	2090	554
Botley - - -	3090	3260	904

A small stream of water divides the parish of All Saints, Southampton, from the rural parish of *Millbrook*. This last is mentioned in the Doomsday Book as forming part of the possessions of the Bishop of Winchester, and as containing five ploughlands occupied by fourteen labourers, fourteen acres of meadow, and woods which furnished five hogs, and as being worth one hundred shillings. It is clear that the then manor did not comprise the whole of the present parish, as places, now situated within its limits, are there mentioned as independent manors, thus Shirley, held by the powerful Ralph de Mortimer, contained eight ploughlands, a church, and a mill which paid thirty pence, and twelve acres of meadow, and woods which furnished eight hogs, and was worth one hundred shillings; and Redbridge, which has long given its name to one of the hundreds of the county, containing one ploughland, and two mills which paid fifty shillings, and one acre of meadow. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of the bishop, of the annual value of £489; and the church is an ancient structure of Norman foundation, but has from time to time been greatly altered.

Redbridge, it is said, was once the site of a monastery, but all traces of it have long been lost, nor is it known by whom, or when, it was either founded or destroyed. It is here that the Test discharges its waters into the Southampton Estuary, but its vale, though much wider and of greater extent, is less thickly studded with churches than the vale of the Itchen; thus giving to the latter a greater importance at an early date.

Shirley has again a church, and within a few years has seen its barren common covered with houses, many of them erected after elegant designs, with their grounds laid out with exquisite taste. The great tythes, in the tything of Hill and Sidford, in which Shirley is situated, are private property; and this circumstance has given rise to the belief that the tything was at one time an independent parish, but there is no evidence as to how or when the great tythes became the property of lay proprietors.

The parish of *North Stoneham*, to the north-east of Millbrook, is supposed to contain the site of an intermediate Roman station between Clausentum and Venta, known as Lapidem. In the tenth century King Athelstan made a grant to St. Peter's Abbey, Winchester, of six hides of land at Stoneham, and in the Domesday Book it is stated that the abbey possessed at Stoneham eleven ploughlands, of which two were held in demesne, and that twenty villagers and seven borderers occupied nine ploughlands, and there was here a church and thirteen servants, two mills let at thirty shillings, and two hundred acres of meadow. In the reign of Edward III. the then abbot of Hyde enclosed the present park, having obtained a grant from the king for that purpose, and upon the dissolution of monasteries, Stoneham, with the other possessions of Hyde Abbey, was obtained by Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, by whose family it was sold in the reign of Queen Elizabeth to Sir Thomas Fleming, an ancestor to the present proprietor.

The family of Fleming appears to have been settled in the southern part of the county from the time of the Normans; and for many centuries has maintained an

intimate connection with the town of Southampton. In the early records of the corporation of that town, and in the old charters and other documents they are repeatedly mentioned among its officers, from Michael Flandrensis (the Latinized name), who was one of the bailiffs of Southampton, in the year 1222, to John Flemynge, who filled the office of sheriff of the town in the year 1490, and of mayor in the years of 1503 and 1504. With the parliamentary representation of Southampton the family of the Flemings have been associated for a much longer period. In the year 1298 John Fleming and William Fowell, or Fughell, were returned to sit in the second Parliament to which Southampton sent members, and the last member of the family who sat for the town of Southampton was John Willis Fleming, elected in the year 1784. Sir Thomas Fleming, who was born at Newport, 1554, may be said to be the founder of the present family. He practised at the bar, and after taking the degree of sergeant-at-law, was chosen recorder of London, and was subsequently made solicitor-general to Queen Elizabeth. In the year 1604 he was returned to Parliament as one of the members for Southampton, and again in 1605. In the second year after his return he was made Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer; and by a vote of the House of Commons it was declared that notwithstanding his elevation to the bench, he should still continue a member of that house. In 1609 he was raised to the dignity of Lord Chief Justice of England, and was succeeded in the representation of Southampton by his son. In the year 1737, the direct line of the Stoneham Flemings became extinct, and the estates passed by a female line to the family of the celebrated antiquary Browne Willis, each of whom in succeeding to the family estates assumed the name of Fleming, as was the case with the late proprietor.

The living is a rectory in the patronage of Mr. Fleming, of the annual value of £530; but in the year 1288 its value was estimated at £33 6s. 8d. The church, situated at the western end of the park, though not

bearing those marks of antiquity possessed by our parish churches in general, is neat, and its interior arrangements are in the best style. The eastern window, exhibits the transfiguration, and on each side of it are representations of Saints Peter, John and Philip, Simon, Luke and Andrew, whilst the windows are filled with stained glass, bearing the arms of the Fleming family and connections, richly emblazoned. The principal monuments are one to Admiral Lord Hawke, displaying in white marble his victory in the Bay of Quiberon, and besides others of less note, a good one to Lord Chief Justice Fleming.

South Stoneham, the adjoining parish to the south, is also mentioned in the Domesday Book, and as belonging to the Cathedral of Winchester, and that its revenues were appropriated to the clothing of its monks. It is said to have been granted to that establishment by Alwyn, Bishop of Winchester, who in addition to his episcopal office, was earl and elderman of Southampton and held Stoneham. Soon after the accession of Edward the Confessor, his mother, Queen Emma, the widow of Canute the Great, was charged with criminal familiarity with Alwyn, but the Queen conscious of her own innocence, insisted in undergoing the proof, so usual in those days, of the fiery ordeal. Her offer was accepted, and she was required to walk over nine hot plough-shares placed in the nave of Winchester Cathedral, which feat she performed unscathed and untouched in the presence of the king, the bishops, and an immense multitude of people assembled in the cathedral to be spectators of the event. In memory of this extraordinary deliverance, the king gave to the cathedral three manors, Queen Emma nine manors, and Alwyn the like number, amongst which was South Stoneham. At the time of the compilation of the Domesday Book, it appears that there were attached to the rectory two benefices near Southampton, but has since been reduced to a vicarage, the rector of St. Mary's, Southampton, receiving the great tythes, and who is the patron of the living, which is of the annual value of £250. The church is of ancient

date, and has in it a curious monument in memory of one of the family of Clerk, who possessed the Avington estate, now the property of the Duke of Buckingham, near Winchester, two centuries ago.

The manor of Bittern, which consists of the part of South Stoneham west of the river Itchen, appears in the Domesday Book as belonging to the see of Winchester, and was, by Bishop Poynet, surrendered with other manors, in the reign of Edward VI. to those plunder seeking courtiers who haunted the court of that youthful sovereign, but restored in the reign of Queen Mary. At the triumph of the Independents at the close of the reign of Charles I. it was confiscated and sold for the sum of £1,716 6s. 8d. but the purchaser was obliged again to surrender it to the see at the Restoration.

Near the waters edge and at the north-east angle of Northam bridge, occupied by the house and lands of Mrs. Stuart Hall, is the site of the Roman station of Clausentum, which overlooked and guarded the entrance to the Itchen. Small portions of the wall are still standing, and many coins and Roman antiquities have been there discovered. The Rev. Richard Warner derives the name from "Clausus," shut up, and "intus," within, designating its land-locked station. There is no appearance that there was any town connected with it, but that it was merely a military station, erected at the entrance of the river on which was situated the then important city of *Venta*, now Winchester. The walls appear to have been nine feet in thickness, and to have been composed of flint and small stones, strongly cemented together. There are also to be seen remains of the ancient embankments and ditches. It is supposed by antiquarians, that Clausentum was erected within the first half-century of the Christian era, when the General of the Emperor Claudius reduced this portion of the island to subjection. In after times here appeared to have been a house belonging to the Bishops of Winchester, which Leland speaks of as being in ruins, and near it stood a church or chapel. A district church has recently been erected at West End, and endowed with

an income of £60, arising from the canon and prebend suspension fund.

The parish of *St. Mary Extra*, formerly a part of *St. Mary*, Southampton, occupies the lower part of the Itchen Valley on its eastern bank. The church on Pear-Tree Green was erected in 1624 in consequence of the inconvenience experienced by the inhabitants in attending the mother church of *St. Mary* in the winter months. The living is a perpetual curacy in the gift of the Rev. W. Davis, of the annual value of £70. The parish contains the hamlets of Itchen Ferry, Woolston and Ridgway, the former of which is principally occupied by fishermen, who at a no distant date were wont after the fashion of their Catholic ancestors, to celebrate the festival of their Patron Saint. The 29th of June was invariably kept as a holiday; the finny tribe had a respite, a procession was formed by the whole of the inhabitants of the place, and an image of *St. Peter* was borne in triumph.

The parish of *Hound* adjoins that of *St. Mary extra*, Southampton, on the south-east, and the living is a vicarage, with the chapelry of Bursledon annexed, of the annual value of £170, in the patronage of the warden and fellows of Winchester College, who are the impropiators of the great thyrthes. The principal object of notice in this parish is Netley Abbey: the picturesque beauties of its remains, and its lovely site, have not only been acknowledged by thousands, but have been proclaimed by the pencil of the artist, and the pen of the topographer and poet. The manor of Netley is mentioned in the Doomsday Book as Latelie, and as being held, by one of the king's thanes, of William the Conqueror, and as containing a chapel, five ploughlands, four acres of meadow, and woods which furnished forty hogs, and as being worth one hundred shillings. The abbey was founded during the reign of Henry III. but historians are divided in opinion as to the founder. Godwin and Leland assert that Peter de Rupibus, Bishop of Winchester; and Dugdale and Tanner contend that Henry III. not only founded, but endowed it. There is

one circumstance confirmatory of the opinion of the two last mentioned authorities, namely, the abbey was, dedicated not only to the Blessed Virgin, the common patron of Cistercian Houses, but also to St. Edward the Confessor, the adopted patron of the king, to whom he paid extraordinary honors during his life, and at his death ordered his remains to be interred close to the relics of his patron.

In addition to the munificence of its royal or episcopal founder, Netley experienced benefactors in Roger de Clare, Edmund Earl of Cornwall, and Walter de Burgh; the latter of whom invested it with lands in the county of Lincoln, which he held of the king in capite, by the service of presenting him with a head-piece lined with fine linen. and a pair of gilt spurs. No register or other documents of the abbey is known to be in existence, and there is not one historical event connected with it from its foundation till when it was suppressed, in common with the lesser monasteries, in the reign of Henry VIII. At the period of its dissolution as a religious establishment, its community consisted of an abbot and twelve monks, with a revenue, according to Dugdale, of £100 1s. 8d. The site and manor were granted to Sir William Paulett, the first Marquis of Winchester, from whom they passed to Edward, Earl of Hertford, the son of the Protector Duke of Somerset, who here entertained Queen Elizabeth, in 1560. During the following century they became the property of one of the Earls of Huntingdon, who, according to tradition, converted a part of the chapel into a kitchen and offices, reserving the east-end for sacred purposes. In the year 1700, the abbey became the property of Sir Bartlett Lucy, who sold the materials of the chapel to Mr. Walter Taylor, a builder of Southampton, who took off the roof, which, till that time, was entire; and there is every reason to believe that the whole fabric would have been removed but for the untimely death of Mr. Taylor. It is said that a short time after he had entered into his contract, some of his friends observed, in conversation, that they would never be concerned in the demolition of holy and

consecrated places. These remarks made such an impression on his mind that he dreamed, that in taking down the abbey, the keystone of the arch, over the east window, fell from its place and killed him. This dream he told to Mr. Watts, a schoolmaster of Southampton, and father of Dr. Isaac Watts, who advised him not to have any personal concern in pulling down the building. This advice, however, was insufficient to deter him from assisting at the work in person, and the creations of sleep were unhappily realized; for, in endeavouring to remove some boards from the east window, to admit light and air to the workmen, a stone fell upon and fractured his skull. The injury was not considered mortal, but in the operation of extracting a splinter, the surgeon's instrument accidentally entered the brain, and caused immediate death. This had the effect of staying the proposed destruction of the abbey, which has since experienced no other injuries than those inflicted by the ravages of the tempest, and the corroding tooth of time. The ruins are delightfully situated on the declivity of a hill gently rising from the edge of the water of the Southampton estuary, and are embosomed amidst trees of luxuriant foliage. It is well protected by rising grounds from the north, east, and south-east winds, and is just such a spot as a lover of ease and retirement would select. The chapel was originally cruciform in its ground plan, and consisted of a nave, aisles, and transepts, 200 feet in length, and 120 in breadth. Though open to the sky, and presenting nothing on either side but naked walls, pierced by windows, the greater number of which have lost their tracery, with the ground strewn with fallen columns and other masonry, there is enough to show the taste and genius of the middle ages, and to impress on the mind—that its chapel was not erected for mere show, its founder and architect being alike unknown, but to the honour of the Most High. The usual entrance to the abbey is by a gateway on the south side, passing which we have a large quadrangle, now known as Fountain

Court, probably from the circumstance, that, when the abbey was occupied as a private residence, it contained a fountain. This court is the site of the ancient cloisters, which have long been destroyed, and which, on the north side, abutted against the wall of the chapel. Traces of the cloisters are still to be seen in this quadrangle, especially on the south and west sides. Among the buildings to the west of the quadrangle there is a curious vaulted apartment, known as the Abbot's Kitchen, which, more probably, in Catholic times was a crypt, and that it was dedicated to culinary purposes after the abbey had passed into the hands of lay proprietors. This apartment is forty-five feet long and twenty-four in breadth. The chimney, or fire place, is of singular form; and nearly opposite to it there is a dark vault or aperture, said to terminate in a coppice at a little distance from the building. Near this apartment are to be seen traces of the chapter house and refectory; the former was an elegant structure, thirty-six feet square, and the latter was forty-five feet in length and twenty-four in breadth. Adjoining these remains we have the south transept of the chapel, over which the roof remained till within a comparatively recent date. This portion of the building has received less injury than any other. In the south-east corner of this transept there are the remains of a spiral staircase, leading to the upper part of the tower, which is said to have been ornamented with pinnacles serving as a mark for seamen. Till within a few years there might be traced on the ruins that strewed the ground various devices and armorial bearings, supposed to be those of the benefactors of the abbey; amongst which was Bishop Fox's favourite device of a pelican wounding its breast to feed its young, in allusion to the Catholic doctrine of the eucharist. The same device may be seen in various portions of that part of Winchester Cathedral which was rebuilt by that prelate, and also at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, of which he was the founder. The north transept and several of the win-

dows on the north side of the chapel are entirely gone. The tracery of the great west window is also gone, but its walls are richly mantled with ivy, and with its high pointed gable present, a pleasing and picturesque object viewed from vessels passing up and down the estuary. The east, and several of the windows on the south side, still preserve a portion of their tracery and decoration, and enough remains of the columns, windows, and arches of the chapel to show, that when perfect it was an exquisite specimen of the lightness, elegance, and beauty of the style of architecture known as the "Early English." To the east of the abbey there is a garden, which is still enclosed, at one end of which are the remains of an old building with several apartments; a moat which surrounded the abbey may still be traced; and at a short distance, overhung with trees and underwood, are two large ponds which supplied the monastery with fish. Within a few hundred yards to the south-west of the abbey, on the shore of the estuary, there is a small fort, known as Netley Castle, now used as a private residence, and is another of those maritime fortifications erected by Henry VIII. as a defence for the southern coast. The ruins, together with the adjoining manor of Woolston form a portion of the possessions of T. Chamberlayne, esq. of Cranbury Park.

Directing our footsteps along the coast towards the south-east, we arrive, within the distance of two miles, at the village of *Hamble*, or *Ham-en-le-Rice*, situated at the mouth of the Hamble river. Here was, as early as the reign of King Stephen, a Cistercian cell, belonging to the Abbey of Thyrone, in France, which, at the suppression of the alien priories, was, with its possessions (including the impropriation of the tythes, and the patronage of Hound, Bursledon, and Hamble), granted to Winchester College. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the above patronage, of the annual value, according to the returns of the Parliamentary Commissioners, of only £36. The church is an ancient edifice of Norman foundation, with a fine door-way, enriched with some

beautiful zigzag moulding, and an elegant east window of a later date. The church contains a handsome monument to the late Sir Joseph Yorke, who was accidentally drowned in the Southampton estuary in 1831. On a point of land, projecting into the water, there are the remains of an ancient castle, and Leland, in his *Itinerary* written in the reign of Henry VIII. speaks of Hameline as "a good fisshar toun," and as having "a haven wher yn is a very fair rode for greate shippes." Hamble is still famed for its supply of shell fish, there being a lobster fishery, and crabs are brought there from the coast of Cornwall, to meet the demands of the London market.

Three miles higher up the river, we have the village of *Bursledon*, where in the reign of William III. and Queen Anne, several large men-of-war, including two 80-gun ships were built.

The adjoining parish to the north is *Botley*, mentioned in the Doomsday Book as being held by Ralph de Mortimer, and as containing a church, two mills at twenty shillings, twelve acres of meadow, and as being worth one hundred shillings. The small market town of Botley possesses a considerable trade, the Hamble river being thus far navigable. The old church is situated about a mile to the south of the town, but a new one was erected in 1836, at a cost of £2,400, and which contains 500 sittings, of which one half are free. The living is a rectory in the gift of his Grace the Duke of Rutland, the tythes of which have been commuted at £391, and there is a glebe of 21 acres, worth £30. Here are a cattle and corn market, and five fairs in the course of the year. The place is thus described by a writer in 1798 :—" Botley, formerly called Botleigh, has but lately emerged from obscurity and contempt, by the erection of a large brick bridge over the river, the fording of which was a traveller's curse, and caused many to prefer a long and circuitous route by Winchester. The river, which was formerly looked upon as its peculiar misfortune, is become a source of riches and a sceue of pleasure to its inhabitants."

Botley has gained a notoriety as the place where a fatal joke was perpetrated about a century ago, and which is generally known in the neighbourhood as "Botley Assizes." Without vouching for the truth of the story, the mere mention of which some years ago would cause the blood to rush into the face of a Botley man, whilst, an inquiry as to when "the Assizes" would take place has been the cause of many a fray. The received particulars may be given as follows :—One summer afternoon, about a century ago, a company of rustics were assembled at the "Catherine Wheel" public house : and being all of them "two or three ga'an men," had made a deepish impression on a hogshead of strong beer. At length one of the number began to flinch ; he did not drink, he only "kissed the cup and passed it to the rest," which did not suit the jollity of his companions. Finding him obstinate, and that he either could or would drink no more, they resolved to try him for not doing his duty, which they did, returning a verdict of guilty ; a rope was placed round his middle, and he was drawn up to the bacon rack, the rope being fastened to the settle. Just at that moment a regiment of soldiers marched through the place : the rattling drums and squeaking fifes, the bright scarlet uniforms, glistening bayonets, and "the pomp and circumstance of war," drew to the several doors and windows the whole population of the place, including the fuddlers at the Catherine Wheel, forgetful of their unfortunate companion. A few minutes restored the village to its wonted quietude ; the last rank of the soldiers had turned the corner, and the notes of their music had died away, when our company returned to the kitchen and one of them let down the man, with whom they thought they had had some fun, but, whom unintentionally they had deprived of life.

SKETCH XXIV.

BISHOP'S WALTHAM AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Bishop's Waltham - -	5020	7942	2193
Upham - - - -	3870	2320	581
Wickham - - - -	1930	3336	1164
Durley - - - -	4290	2380	425
Soberton - - - -	5890	3460	964
Droxford - - - -	7380	6059	1942
Meon Stoke - - - -	1830	1365	459
Corhampton - - - -	2410	1189	181
Exton - - - -	2210	1835	282
Warnford - - - -	2690	2966	381
West Meon - - - -	3380	3062	814
Privett - - - -	1170	866	273

THE little market town of *Bishop's Waltham* derives its prefix from its episcopal palace, which for five centuries was the frequent residence of the successive Bishops of Winchester. The name of Waltham is from the Saxon word *wald* or *weald*, a wood, and *ham*, a collection of houses, thus meaning a town in a wood, or woody country. The Rev. Charles Walters, in his *History of Bishop's Waltham*, conjectures that it was the site of a Roman town, from the fact that a number of Roman coins have from time to time been here discovered. Its name plainly demonstrates that it existed in the Saxon times, which is confirmed by the notice in the Domesday Book, which states that the Bishop of Winchester held the manor, which was assessed at twenty, although it consisted of thirty hides, and that it contained twenty-six ploughlands, of which, six were in demense, and that seventy villagers and fifteen borderers employed twenty-six ploughs. Here was a church,

three mills which paid a rent of 17s. 6d. woods which furnished ten hogs, and also a pound for cattle; the whole being worth £30. Belonging to the manor there were two other churches, probably those of Upham and Durley, which places are within the present manor of Waltham, which at that time gave its name to one of the hundreds of the county.

The most remarkable object of Waltham is the remains of its ancient castle or palace, erected seven centuries ago by the warlike Bishop of Winchester, Henry de Blois, the founder of the hospital of St. Cross, and brother to King Stephen. This monarch, on his accession to the throne, aware of the weakness of his title, was desirous to conciliate the nobility, to whom he granted the privilege of erecting and fortifying castles on their respective manors, and no one took greater advantage of this licence than his brother, who, forthwith, fortified his episcopal residences at Winchester, Merdon, Farnham, Taunton, and Waltham. In the following reign, the castles of Wolvesey, Merdon, and Waltham, were seized by the king and dismantled, but were shortly after restored to the Bishop. In the year 1182, Henry II. held a great Council of the Nobles at Bishop's Waltham relative to his projected crusade, which council granted him the necessary supplies, namely, 42,000 marks of silver, and 500 marks of gold. Richard I. visited Waltham, and was royally entertained at the palace, shortly after his second coronation at Winchester, on his return from his captivity in Germany. Waltham appears to have been the favourite residence of the celebrated William of Wykeham, who expended a large sum on the palace, as the remains testify, they being in the same style as that of his acknowledged work at Winchester, and here closed his active life 1404. His successor, Cardinal Beaufort, in his will, bequeathed to the renowned Margaret of Anjou, the Queen of Henry VI. "his blue bed of gold and damask, wherein the Queen used to lie when she was at the palace, and three suits of arras hanging in the same room." Langton, who succeeded to the see of Winchester in 1493,

made several material alterations in, and additions to, the palace, but in the reign of Edward VI. John Poyntet, on being appointed to the see, on the degradation of Stephen Gardiner, made a surrender of the palace and manor of Waltham to Pawlett, first Marquis of Winchester, who was obliged to restore them to the church on the accession of Queen Mary. During what Lord Clarendon styles "the Grand Rebellion," the palace was demolished, and the manor sequestrated and sold to R. Reynolds, esq. for the sum of £7,999 14s. 10½d. At the Reformation, the church regained its own, but the episcopal palace has not found a restorer, whilst its ancient park, nearly 1000 acres in extent, has been divided into farms, and the tenth part allotted to the rectory in lieu of a tythe of its produce, and is now the glebe. Grose, the antiquarian, who visited Waltham soon after the Restoration, thus describes the palace :— " Its area was in its figure a right angled parallelogram, the four sides nearly fronting the four cardinal points, its east and west sides measuring 300 feet, and its north and south sides 180 feet. It consisted of two 'courts, one of which, the outer, or northern court, was considerably the largest. The entrance was near the northern end of the west side. Through this lodge were the servants' offices and lodging rooms, with the gate leading to the second or inner court, on the west side was a great hall, lighted by five noble gothic windows ; its length was 66 feet by 27, and its height was 25 feet. At the south end of this room were niches for seats or statues. Near this spot was a double row of pilasters, now almost covered with rubbish, which seem to have supported some arches. Opposite, on the east side of the court, was a chapel of the same dimensions as the hall. The north aisle had probably a cloister, and over it lodging rooms, or a long gallery. The south aisle was seemingly the body of the house, the rooms of which are said to have been from 20 to 22 feet high. On the angles, made by concurrence of this side with those of the east and west, were two square towers ; part only of one on the south-west angle is remaining,

the other is entirely down: each of its sides measures 17 feet. All the outer walls were six, and the inner walls four feet thick; most of them have been pulled down and carried away for the sake of the materials. On the west side ran a ditch 25 feet wide, between which and the wall was a walk. About forty feet of the ditch forms a large pond, which is said formerly to have been nearly half a mile long and a furlong broad, and to the east of the house are two large gardens walled around with brick, and the remains of two lodges." For two centuries these interesting remains have suffered equally from the ravages of time and the cupidity of man, but they still arrest the eye of the stranger, and afford contemplation and study to the antiquarian. A portion of them, supposed to have been the offices, is now used as a barn. The great hall, in the second or inner court, the front wall of which remains almost entire, was 65 feet in length, 27 in width, and 25 feet high, and was lighted by five large windows of magnificent proportions, now mantled with ivy. Besides the hall there are the remains of a tower 17 feet square, in the southern end of which may be discerned traces of the minstrel gallery, and at the south-west corner a curious corbel remain, which supported its part of the framed timber roof. In the front of the building there is a large sheet of water, artificially formed, for the necessary supply of fish at the palace in Catholic times, and into it several small streams pour their water, and from it issues the river which passing through Durley and Botley, discharges itself into the Southampton estuary below Bursledon. The church is supposed to have been erected by Bishop de Blois, and to have consisted of a nave, south aisle, tower, and chancel, but successive alterations have effaced all the more ancient features. The chancel was erected by Wykeham, the eastern window presenting his well known rose. The aisles of the nave are both of subsequent erection, the north aisle being built to enlarge the church in 1637, and the original south aisle was pulled down and rebuilt in 1652 with materials brought from the lately destroyed palace. The tower is

of the age of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The rectory, which is in the patronage of the see, is of great value, the tythes have been commuted at £1250, in addition to which the glebe is worth £83. There is a district church at Curdridge, which is endowed with £100 annually payable from the tythes. The grammar school was founded by George Morley, Bishop of Winchester, in the reign of Charles II. and further endcwed under the wills of R. Kerby, 1721, and Mr. Bone, 1732, of which the rector and churchwardens are the governors. At the time of the investigation of the charities 32 poor boys of the parish were taught reading, writing and arithmetic, by a deputy, under the superintendence of a master, who was also the curate of the parish. The master was ready to teach Latin, but no application was made by free scholars for such instruction. The market for corn is on Friday, and fairs are held on the second Friday in May, July 30th, and the first Friday after Old Michaelmas.

A century and a half have not passed away since there existed in this town and neighbourhood, including among its members those of the most respectable families, a notorious gang of deer stealers, who, from their custom of blacking their faces, as well as otherwise disguising their persons before they sallied forth into the adjacent woods, obtained for them the cognomen of *Waltham Blacks*. So strange was the infatuation, says Mr. White, in his history of Selborne, that for a time no young person, unless he was a *Hunter* (to use their own phrase), was allowed to be possessed of either manhood or gallantry. To the custom of merely killing deer, other illegal acts were added, and so many atrocities committed that an Act of Parliament was passed for their suppression, which from the number of sanguinary clauses which it contained, and for its unparalleled severity, comprehending more felonies than any previous Act, was known by the name of the *Black Act*. It, however, effected a cure of these disorders, but not without a fearful loss of life, as when Bishop Hoadley was urged to re-stock Waltham Chace he refused, observing that it had done mischief enough already.

Within three miles to the north-west of Waltham is the village of *Upham*, which doubtlessly derives its name from being situated on the summit of a hill. The living is a rectory, with the chapelry of Durley annexed, of the annual value of £625, in the patronage of the Bishop of Winchester. On Stephen Castle Down there are some barrows, one of which was opened in 1836, when four skeletons were discovered, which are preserved at Belmour House. Upham gave birth to Edward Young the poet, who was born at the Parsonage House in 1681, his father, afterwards Dean of Salisbury, being at that time the rector of the parish.

The parish of *Durley* is situated to the south-west of Upham, and was in the olden time nothing better than a morass. It was formerly noticed for its dark and miry lanes—hence the appellation of *Dirty Durley*; but of late years it has forfeited all claims to that honour, its highways and bye-ways being kept in as good condition as those of its neighbours. Here is indeed no village; what is called Durley-street does not contain so many as a dozen houses, and is nearly a mile and a half from the church, near which there is only one house. The farms and cottages are at a considerable distance from each other—some of them at the distance of two or three miles from the church, which is situated at the south-western extremity of the parish.

The village of *Wickham* is situated at the distance of four miles to the south of the town of Waltham, and on the western bank of the Arle river. The church is a neat structure, with some remains of Anglo-Norman architecture at the western entrance. The living is a rectory in the patronage of W. Rashleigh, esq. of the annual value of £578. The manor of Wichetone, afterwards Wykeham, and now Wickham, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being held by Hugh de Port, as being assessed at twelve hides, and as containing seven ploughlands, two mills, eight acres of meadow, and woods which furnished five hogs, the whole being worth £7. The present lord of the manor is W. Garnier, esq. of Rooksbury Park, at whose annual court leet a con-

stable and other officers are appointed. Immediately to the east of the village, seated on a rising ground, and in a well wooded park, stands Rooksbury House, a handsome modern erection, and to the north-east of the village, is Wickham Park, the seat of J. Guitton, esq. An extensive fair for horses, particularly colts, and cattle is held on the 20th of May.

William of Wykeham, who, not only derived his parentage from this place, but the name which he recognized as his own; "his parents being either, too mean to claim a surname, or too poor to have it recorded," but it is now generally understood that his family name was Perot. At an early age his talents and behaviour attracted the attention of Nicholas Uvedale, lord of the manor of Wickham, and constable of Winchester Castle. By him he was placed in the school attached to the cathedral of that city, and by the same generous benefactor he was afterwards sent to Oxford, where he remained eight years. At the expiration of that period he was recalled to Winchester by his patron, and appointed his secretary. Bishop Edyngton employed him in the same capacity, and admitted him to holy orders, and by him he was recommended to the notice of King Edward III. and was by that sovereign appointed surveyor of the royal castles, Wykeham's principal *forte* being a knowledge of architecture and mechanics. How well he was versed, and what taste he displayed, in these subjects, the castles of Windsor, Dover, and Queenborough bear evidence. His abilities being found equal to more important duties, he became successively Secretary of State, Keeper of the Privy Seal, and Lord Chancellor of England, and, in short, the king's chief and confidential counsellor in the management of all public matters. In reward for his services, the king heaped upon him a large number of ecclesiastical benefices, and upon the death of Edyngton recommended him in such terms to the monks of Winchester, that they were unanimous in their selection of him as the bishop of that see. Wykeham was no sooner called upon to exercise the episcopal functions, than he

proved himself to be a thorough reformer of abuses. His first great work was the restoration of the Hospital of St. Cross according to the intent of its founder, which had suffered much from the cupidity of several of its masters. He was many years engaged in this good work before he could carry his object into effect, but which he accomplished by his vigour and perseverance. The state of the episcopal property, and the repairs of the churches, next engaged his attention, many of which bear evidence of his genius and taste. His own cathedral church did not escape his notice, for not only did he rebuild the nave, but he drew up a body of statutes for the clergy, which he enforced by his own example. He then set about executing those two great designs, which he had planned for the permanent advantage of his diocese—namely, the foundation of those two famous colleges which he built and endowed, the one at Winchester and the other at Oxford. Towards the latter part of the reign of Edward III. Wykeham fell into disgrace and was banished the court. The particulars of the case are totally unknown, but Wykeham had been a steady opponent of the ambitious projects of the celebrated John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, who after the death of the Black Prince, usurped the functions of Government. By him Wykeham was charged with having embezzled the public money, but was not allowed to explain in what manner all the sums in question had been spent in the public service. The consequence of this charge was, that he was deprived of all temporal power, his episcopal revenues sequestrated, and he remained in disgrace till the following reign. From this time his care was principally directed to his diocese and to the erection and endowment of his colleges. At length, having attained a good old age, thirty-eight years of which he was Bishop of Winchester, he departed this life at his castle at Waltham, September 20, 1404, and was buried with great pomp in a beautiful chantry in his cathedral, to the preservation and decoration of which due attention has at all times been paid by his colleges at Oxford and Winchester.

Ascending the valley of the Arle, the next parish is *Soberton*, mentioned in the *Doomsday Book* as a royal manor containing four mills. The church is principally of the early English style of architecture, and the living, which is a rectory, is annexed to that of Meon Stoke.

Within a little more than a mile up the stream is the large village of *Droxford*. The manor, in the reign of William the Conqueror, contained a church and two mills, was assessed at fourteen hides, and belonged to the Bishop of Winchester, who is still the patron of the rectory, the tythes of which have been commuted at £1,100, in addition to which there is a glebe worth £26. *Droxford* gives its name to one of the magisterial divisions of the county, and is the centre of a Poor Law Union comprising eleven parishes. The church is an ancient structure in the early Norman style, with later details. A district church was erected and endowed some years since for the detached tything of *Shidfield*, at the expense of the Rev. W. Garnier, a former rector, and another district church at *Swanmore* has recently been consecrated.

Another mile up the vale is *Meon Stoke*, which, according to *Camden*, derives its name from the ancient district of *Meanwari*, which, together with the Isle of Wight, was given to *Ethelbald*, king of the West Saxons, by *Wulpher*, king of *Mercia*, who was his godfather. This district probably included the whole of the portion of the county between the river *Arle* on the west and *Sussex* on the east, the inhabitants of which were converted to christianity by the preaching of *St. Wilfred*, the Apostle of the West Saxons. At the Norman Conquest *Meon Stoke* gave its name to one of the hundreds of the county, and was a royal manor, but the church belonged to the bishop, who received therefrom the annual sum of 20s. and who is still the patron of the rectory, which, with that of *Soberton* annexed, is of the gross annual value of £1,175. The church is an elegant structure in the decorated style, and contains many beautiful and interesting details. In the east window

there is some delicate tracery, and it contains the well known rose of William of Wykeham, by whom that portion is supposed to have been erected, and on each side a beautiful canopied niche, which for many years were concealed by thick coats of plaster.

On the opposite side of the river is the village of *Corhampton*, with its church of Saxon foundation. It has been supposed that some portion of the present structure is as ancient as the days of St. Wilfred, who erected several churches in this neighbourhood. The exterior exhibits a succession of narrow pilasters at regular intervals, resting on a stone basement; two of these on the south side spring from rude corbel stones, and another on the north side springs from another corbel stone set upon the key-stone of a curious arch, which like the pilasters projects about two inches from the wall line. The nave is separated from the chancel by a semicircular arch, rudely formed of rough stones, on one side of which is a handsome monument in white marble to the family of Walter Long, esq. of Preshaw House in this parish; and on the other side is the ancient pulpit in good preservation. The chancel contains a curious stone chair, and a stone laid down in the floor which has five rudely cut crosses, and is supposed to have been the ancient altar slab. The font is very ancient and of singular appearance, and against the exterior south wall of the tower is a sun-dial of unquestioned Saxon workmanship. Neither the manor or church are mentioned in the *Doomsday Book*, being probably at that period included in one of the now adjoining manors. Here is an endowed school founded under the will of W. Collins, esq. 1669, of which the master is required to officiate as minister of the parish church, and is for eight poor boys of the parishes of Corhampton, Meon Stoke, Exton, and Droxford. At the period of the investigation, the office of schoolmaster and incumbent was not held by the same person, and the income amounted to £34. of which £12. was received by the former and £22. by the latter; and since that time the school has been incorporated with the National school.

On the same side of the river, and at a short distance higher up the stream is *Exton*, the manor of which is mentioned in the Domesday Book as containing a church and two mills, and as being worth £20. but paying a rent of £30. The church is in the Early English style, with insertions of a later date, and the rectory is in the gift of the bishop, the tythes of which have been commuted at £470.

Still proceeding up the stream, within another mile, is *Warnford*, which at the time of the compilation of the Domesday Book was held by Hugh de Port, one portion of it in his own right, and the other in that of Winchester cathedral. Warnford House, late the seat of W. Abbott, esq. now of J. Tunno, esq. is a noble and commanding building, and supposed to have been originally built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but the subsequent repairs made by its successive owners have left few features of the original structure. In the park, at a short distance from the house, there are some majestic ruins of an ancient mansion, generally known as King John's House, but properly St. John's House, from its having been the property of the St. John's, Lords Basing, who inherited it from their ancestor, the renowned Hugh de Port. A century ago the remains were much more perfect than they are at present; they now consist of sundry walls composed of flints set in grout work four feet thick, with semicircular arched windows and doors. Under a vaulted roof, which appears to have been supported by four slender well-proportioned columns, the bases and capitals of which are entire, are four half columns worked in the east and west walls. In the writings connected with the estate this ruin is denominated "the old house," and was probably for centuries the residence of the proprietors of the manor of Warnford, but it has been untenanted for nearly three centuries. Within twenty yards of these ruins stands the parish church founded by Adam de Port, who is also supposed to have built the old house at the commencement of the 13th century. The archi-

ture is of the Early English character, but the font is of Norman construction. The church contains many curious details, amongst which are a confessional and a recessed niche in which the sacred vessels were deposited; also a marble monument in the Italian style to the family of Neale, with recumbent effigies of the parents and those of their children in kneeling attitudes. The living is a rectory in the patronage of Mr. Tunno, of the gross annual value of £637.

The parish of *West Meon*, the adjoining one on the north-west, is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and appears to have been one of the largest manors in the county, one portion being held by the king and the other by the bishop. That held by the former contained 64 ploughlands, of which 56 were occupied by 70 villagers and 82 borderers; six mills, eight acres of meadow, and woods which furnished 260 hogs, and the herbage which produced 7s. 6d, the whole being worth £60. but paid a rent of 100 pounds in weight. The portion held by the bishop contained fourteen ploughlands, a church which paid to the bishop 5s. annually, and ten acres of meadow worth £30. but let for £40.

The church is a curious specimen of Norman architecture, but not affording sufficient accommodation, another has been recently erected near it at the sole cost of the late Ven. Archdeacon Bailey, who left a considerable sum for its completion, which is still in progress. It is an elegant structure in the decorated style, and consists of a nave, and aisles, and chancel. All the windows are filled with stained glass, and at the west-end rises an embattled tower. The living is a rectory with the chapelry of Privett annexed, and is in the patronage of the bishop, the tythes of which have been commuted at £729, in addition to which there is a glebe consisting of thirty-six acres.

SKETCH XXV.

FAREHAM AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Fareham	6670	16361	6168
Titchfield	15960	16551	4030
Boarhunt	1805	1305	232
Southwick	4950	3347	749
Widley	950	2298	607
Wymering	2610	4790	748
Porchester	1110	2725	769

THE neat and flourishing market town of Fareham, situated at the head of a lake at the north-western extremity of Portsmouth harbour, was, three centuries ago, no better than a mere fishing village. It now possesses a considerable trade in corn and coals, and a manufacture of sacking and cording; vessels of 200 tons burthen are built here, and there is an extensive floating dock in which ships of 500 tons can be repaired. An extensive corn and cattle market is held on every alternate Monday, and an annual fair on the 29th and 30th of June. Fareham gives its name to one of the magisterial divisions of the county, and is the centre of a Poor Law Union comprising nine parishes. The town consists principally of two wide streets, but the appearance of it is far more picturesque than uniform. The manor is called Fernham in the Domesday Book, and is stated to contain thirty hides, assessed at twenty in consequence of its maritime position, which exposed it to the incursions of the northern pirates. Here was a church, two mills which paid twenty-five shillings, twenty ploughlands, of which thirty villagers

and 16 borderers occupied 14 ploughlands, woods which furnished ten hogs and twenty-five acres of meadow; the whole returned as worth £16. but as paying a rent of £20. It was held by the Bishop of Winchester who is still the patron of the vicarage, and the lord of the manor, at whose court, as such, a bailiff, two constables, and two ale tasters are annually appointed. The church is a spacious, but by no means a handsome edifice, rebuilt some years since, with the exception of the chancel, which is of the Early English style. The living, a vicarage of the annual value of £671, was formerly a rectory, but Bishop de Blois granted the great tythes to his newly founded hospital of St. Cross, and are now let for a lease for lives from the master of that hospital. In addition to the parish church there is an elegant chapel of ease, to which a district has been assigned, situated at the western entrance of the town, erected and endowed by the munificence of the Rev. Sir Henry Thompson, at the expense of £6,000. In addition to two dissenting chapels there is an endowed school for children of the Established Church, founded under the will of W. Price, 1721, who bequeathed property which now produces an income of £264. to the poor of Fareham. About £82. is applied to the purposes of the school, and the remainder is distributed to poor widows. The school is under the control of the vicar and churchwardens, and the freedom extends to thirty poor children of the parish, to be taught reading in the Bible and the principles of the Church of England, and to be clothed with upper garments. Cam's Hall, the residence of H. P. Delmé, esq. is an elegant modern erection, situated on the east side of the town, in a noble park, and overlooking Portsmouth Harbour.

Titchfield, the most extensive parish in the county, with the exception of Christchurch, adjoins that of Fareham to the west. At the period of the Norman Conquest it gave its name to one of the hundreds of the county, which appears to have been of the same extent as the present Hundred, which comprises the

parishes of Wickham, Rowner, and Titchfield. It contained the following manors mentioned in the Domesday Book :—Ticefelle (Titchfield), Faccumbe (Faccomb), Burnewic (Brownwick), Crofton, Funtelae (Funtley), Houch (Hook), Stubetone (Stubbington), and Sugion (Swanwich). Titchfield was a royal manor, in which the king held nothing in demesne but two head of cattle. The village possessed a market and toll place, which paid forty shillings, and the manor contained fifteen ploughlands and a mill; and at Crofton there was a church, a fishery, and two salterns. The town is situated on the Arle, or Titchfield river, which rises in the parish of East Meon and falls into the sea about two miles below the town, and will admit vessels of small burthen, and consists of two streets, the principal one being of considerable breadth, and contains a number of respectable houses. Here is a corn market on Fridays, and four annual fairs. The church is an ancient and noble edifice, consisting of a nave, aisle and transepts, The southern side exhibits specimens of Norman architecture, whilst that on the north is supposed to be the work of the illustrious prelate, William of Wykeham. In the chancel there are monuments of Thomas Wriothesley, first Earl of Southampton, and other members of the family. The living is a vicarage of the annual value of £200, in the patronage of H. P. Delmé, esq, the dean and chapter being the impropiators of the great tythes, commuted at £2,886. out of which they pay £150. to the vicar. In addition to the church are two episcopal chapels in the parish, the one situated in the hamlet of Crofton, an ancient structure; and the other a neat modern erection with the incumbent's residence adjoining, pleasantly situated on Sarisbury Green, on the summit of the hill rising from Bursledon Bridge. The parish enjoys two endowments for education, one of them the gift of the Earl of Southampton in 1620, possesses an annual rental of £73,16s. 10d. Of this sum at the time of the investigation of charities, £10.10s. was paid to a mistress for teaching twelve

poor girls reading and work, and £12. 12s. to a master for teaching twelve boys reading and writing, and the remainder was applied according to the direction of the donor, in clothing the boys and in distribution among the poor. The other endowment is a rent charge of £4. under the will of R. Godwin, esq. 1703. by which twelve poor children are instructed in reading. Titchfield appears to have been formerly a place of some importance, as is shown by the preamble of the bequest of the Earl of Southampton, which thus commences :—
“ That whereas the ancient market town of Titchfield has of late gone to decay.”

Titchfield House, known in the neighbourhood as Funtley Abbey, is situated at a short distance to the north of the village, occupies the site of a Premonstratensian Abbey, founded by Peter de Rupibus, Bishop of Winchester, in the reign of Henry III. The order was introduced into England in the reign of King Stephen, and was remarkable for the strictness of its rules, which at one time amounted to a total abstinence from flesh. In the reign of Edward II. the Abbot of Titchfield gave a mark to have his charter enrolled in the Pipe Office, which states that King Henry III. gave to Peter de Rupibus his manor of Titchfield and all its appurtenances for him to found a monastery to the Blessed Virgin Mary of Canons Premonstra, with the usual privileges and immunities that all men of the manor were to be subject to the abbot, and exempt from the jurisdiction of county justices. By an inventory of the goods and chattels of the abbey taken in 1420, it appears that there was no money in the treasury, but there was due to the house £43. 4s. 3d, and that the community owed £62. 6s. In the sacristy there was one silver gilt cup for the body of the Lord, two great silver chalices, one of them gilt, two silver vessels with relics, a great silver cross with images of Our Lady and St. John the Evangelist, with a large foot, a processional staff with silver socket to fix a cross in, a small silver gilt cross adorned with stones, two silver cruets gilt, a box and spoon for

incense, two candlesticks, all silver gilt, two silver basons and a silver pastoral staff. In the grounds there were thirty-four horses, ten asses, four colts, sixty-nine cows, one hundred and fifty four oxen, seven bulls, seventeen steers, ten bullocks, twenty-eight yearlings, twenty-nine calves, three hundred and eighty-one sheep besides swine, &c.

At the suppression of the abbey its revenues amounted, according to Dugdale, to £249. 16s. 1d, and fell to the share of the wily courtier, Thomas Wriothesley, who built here, says Leland, "a righte statelie house embattled, and having a goodlie gate, and a conducte castelid in the middle of the court of it, in the very place where the late monasterie stooode." Wriothesley, whose name frequently occurs in these Sketches, was at the commencement of his political career secretary to Henry VIII. and how high he stood in that monarch's graces is shown by the immense quantity of church spoil which he obtained. Whilst he retained the secretaryship he kept the even tenor of his way, siding with neither of the two great parties in the state, "the old learning" and the "new learning;" but upon the removal of Lord Audley from the chancellorship, to which office he succeeded, Wriothesley proved himself a zealous adherent of the ancient faith, and like his royal master, he could revel in the plunder of the Church, and yet at the same time resist any change in its doctrines. He was nominated as one of the sixteen executors of that monarch, and at the accession of Edward VI. was created Earl of Southampton, and received an additional grant of Church property to support his dignity. Wriothesley, who, in the former reign, backed by the known sentiments of the king, resisted any further changes in the church, found himself almost without a supporter in the council of the infant Edward. Still his power and influence was dreaded by his colleagues who knew not how to remove him, as the very document by which they possessed the government of the realm contained also the name of Wriothesley; but at

length his own imprudence furnished his enemies with weapons against himself. Unable to attend at the same time the daily deliberations of the council, and his duties as chancellor, he issued a commission on his own authority, empowering four Masters in Chancery to hear all manner of causes in his absence, and giving their decrees the same force as his own, after having received his signature. A petition upon this matter was presented to the council, who referred it to the judges, and they returned for answer, that the chancellor by affixing the great seal without sufficient warrant to the commission, had been guilty of an offence against the king, which in common law was punishable with loss of office, fine, and imprisonment at royal pleasure. The dread of these penalties induced Wriothesley to resign, not merely the seals, but what was more desired by his colleagues, his seat in the council, and he retired to his seat at Titchfield, where he shortly afterward died from vexation.

Very little remains of the ancient abbey and even of the "righte statelie house" erected by the immediate successor of the monks only a part remains standing, and that in a very dilapidated condition. A noble gateway still rears its head, which, with the exception of the stables, is the only object worth notice. Titchfield was twice for a short time the abode of royalty. On the first occasion Edward VI. in his progress through the south-western counties for the recovery of his health, was here entertained in great state by the second Earl of Southampton; and on the second, it afforded a temporary asylum to the unfortunate fugitive Charles I. in 1647, after he had made his escape from Hampton Court, where he had been held prisoner by the Parliament, and who here surrendered himself to Hammond, governor of Carisbrook Castle.

The parish of *Boarhunt* adjoins that of Fareham to the east, and is mentioned in the Doomsday Book as containing a church, three mills, and two salterns, and as being worth £11, but paying a rent of £17. The

church, an ancient structure, is supposed to be of Saxon foundation with details of an Early English character. The living is a donative curacy of the annual value of £47, in the patronage of T. Thistlewayte, esq. of Southwick Park. Boarhunt lies on the northern slope of Portsdown hill, on the highest point of which stands a lofty stone pyramidal erection raised in honour of our justly famed naval hero Horatio, Lord Viscount Nelson, and was erected to his memory by those who fought under his command at Trafalgar, and may be seen at a great distance, and serves as a direction to ships entering Portsmouth harbour.

Southwick is the next parish to the east, and was famed in the olden time for its priory of royal foundation, and which in its day was a great resort for pilgrims. This priory was originally founded within Porchester castle for canons regular of the order of St. Augustine by Henry I, but was within fifty years removed to Southwick, the church and offices being situated within the limits of the present park. Henry II declared the church of St. Mary of Suthwyk to be "his own proper Church, and the Prior and Canons serving God therein, and their lands, rents, and men, and all their things and possessions, to be in his own hands, custody, and protection," and from nearly the whole of the succeeding monarchs to the period of the Reformation the convent experienced some favour in charters of protection or grants of land. As early as the 12th century the prior and canons possessed the churches of Porchester, Wymering, Portsea, Candever, Shalden, Nutley, and Wanstead; with the chapels of Widley, Wallsworth, and Candever Scudland; and of Ymbeschet (Empshot); of St. James without the priory gate (the present parish church); of the Blessed Thomas the Martyr, (Portsmouth church) in the parish of Portsea; to which were afterwards added the churches of Swindon, Burhunt, and St. Nicholas of West Burhunt.

From King John the prior and canons obtained Colemere and Dene in this county; from Henry III. the

privilege of holding a market every Friday, and of having a fair every year of two days continuance in their town of Suthwyk, on the eve and day of the B.V.M.; from the two first Edwards they obtained grants of free warren in all their demesne lands of Southwick, West Burhunt, Baseville, Hippeleye, Crofton, Stebyngton near Portsea, Newland, Avedemere, Mundamere, Candover, Ellisfield, Colmere and Dene, in the county of Southampton; Fissebourne in Sussex, and Clenefield in Oxfordshire; and from Edward III. the lands of Croker and Farlington, with right of free warren and the advowson of the church of Farlyngton.

The priory of Southwick, it is supposed, was the first place in this diocese which partook of the bounty of the munificent prelate William of Wykeham, and the alledged reason is the fact that his father, mother and sister were buried in the church of the priory. But notwithstanding his liberal benefaction, a few years afterwards he seems to have had reason to be displeased with the state of discipline and order in the house; for he held a visitation of the convent, and issued some severe injunctions against divers irregularities against the conventional rule, and even in more serious matters. According to Fabyan and Holinshed, the nuptials of Henry VI. with Margaret of Anjou were celebrated here in the year 1445, being the 23rd of his reign. There is no direct evidence of this in the records of the priory, but there is a charter of Henry VI. to the prior and convent dated March 19th, in the 24th year of his reign; and a second dated July 16th, in the same year, which may be taken as corroborative evidence of the statement of Fabyan and Holinshed; for the privileges and immunities granted in these charters are so ample as to show that the king had some special reason for bestowing on the priory an extraordinary measure of his royal favour. By these charters, among other valuable privileges, such as free chase in all the royal forests in the neighbourhood of their lands, he granted the convent an entire exemption not only from

every sort of toll, custom, and burthens in public works, but also conceded that all their possessions which they had then, or should afterwards acquire, within the county of Southampton, should be for ever free from payment of all subsidies whatever, whether granted to the crown by the clergy in convocation, or imposed by the Supreme Pontiff. At its suppression its revenues amounted according to Dugdale, to £257. 4s. 4d., when its site and adjoining manors were granted to John White and Catherine his wife, in consideration of the sum of £251. 13s. 4d. The original seal of the priory is still in existence, the property of Mr. Thistlewayte, and represents the front of a magnificent and stately building with the Virgin Mary and Holy Infant sitting underneath the portal. A few dilapidated walls alone point out the precise spot occupied by the monastic buildings. Soon after the suppression of the priory, a noble mansion was erected near its site, consisting of a spacious centre with two ends, terminating in gable ends, and embattled. Here were entertained two of our monarchs, Charles I. and George I; the former at the time that his favourite Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, was murdered at Portsmouth by Felton, 1628. Some years later the estates were held by Col. Norton, who signalized himself in behalf of the Long Parliament, and had the command of the Hampshire, Surrey, and Sussex militias. His grandson Richard rendered himself remarkable by an extraordinary will, by which he bequeathed a real estate of £6,000. per annum, and £60,000 in money, to the poor, hungry and thirsty, naked and strangers, sick and wounded, and prisoners, to the end of the world. He left his pictures and other valuable effects to the king, and appointed the parliament of Great Britain his executors, which, should it refuse the trust, he directed that it should devolve upon the bishops. Trustees were appointed to take care of this extraordinary legacy; but the document carried such strong marks of insanity that it was afterwards set aside. The present owner of the estate is Thomas Thistlewayte, esq, who is maternally descended from

the Nortons, and by them from the original lay proprietor, and by whom an elegant mansion has recently been erected on the site of another noble erection, situated about a quarter of a mile from the old priory, which was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1840. The parish church is an ancient structure, and contains a peal of bells valued at £1,000, and the living is a donative in the patronage of Mr. Thistlewayte of the annual value of £165. The publicans of Southwick and those of Portchester enjoy the peculiar privilege, under charter from Queen Elizabeth, of being exempt from having any soldiers billeted on them, or quartered at their houses; and which probably is nothing more than the confirmation of a monastic grant.

The parish of *Widley* is situated on the southern slope; as are the parishes of Southwick and Boarhunt on the northern; slope of Portsdown, and its superiority in site and soil is shown by its high assessment as compared to them. The living is a rectory with the vicarage of Wymering annexed, in the patronage of Mr. Thistlewayte, of the gross annual value of £717. On the portion of Portsdown hill which lies within this parish, there is held an annual fair on the 26th of July, which is attended by thousands upon thousands, not only for the business there done in horses, cheese, &c. and the pleasures incident to such, but for the finest prospects in the kingdom. To the north is the ancient forest of Bere, not the mere hunting place of the olden time, but agreeably interspersed with gentlemen's parks and mansions, cultivated farms, fertile enclosures, and neat and comfortable houses, backed by the ever verdant downs of central and north Hampshire; to the east, the graceful spire of Chichester cathedral rising far above the wolds of Sussex; to the west, the eye glancing over the tract of country intersected by the Titchfield and Hamble rivers and the Southampton estuary, rests on the high hills and dark woods of the New Forest; and to the south, almost at the foot of the hill, is

“ A broad arm'd port
Where laughing at the storm rich navies ride ;”

further on, the turrets, towers, and ramparts of Portsmouth, Portsea, and Gosport, the well known roadstead of Spithead, terminating with a view which embraces nearly the whole extent of the Isle of Wight from St. Helen's on the east to the Needle rocks on the west.

The parish of *Wymering* is situated to the south and east of Widley, and contains a population of 748. It extends a considerable way into Portsea island, and includes the small isles of Great and Little Horsea. The church is an ancient structure and exhibits many features of Norman architecture.

The adjoining parish to the west is *Portchester*, famed for its ancient castle, which was the original port of the estuary known as Portsmouth harbour, ages before the foundation of the town, which may justly be considered the naval capital of England. The cause of the rise of Portsmouth and the decay of Portchester, is to be attributed to the fact that the sea has receded, and that the land has consequently gained on the water. By some antiquarians it is contended that Portchester was built before the invasion of this country by the Romans, B.C. 56, but the evidence in support of their assertion is very slight and unsatisfactory. Not so with regard to the castle as a Roman foundation, the fact being not only asserted by history, but confirmed by the existence of the well known workmanship of that people, the discovery of coins, medals, and the remains of the ancient road leading from Portus Magnus, or Portchester, to Venta Bulgarium, or Winchester. Its modern name is of Saxon origin and signifies the port of the castle, or city. It does not appear to have been the scene of any remarkable transaction. At the time of the Conquest it gave its name to the adjoining manor, which was of small extent, though in the reign of Edward the Confessor, it was divided into three manors, containing five ploughlands, a mill, a fishery, and woods which furnished five hogs, and was returned worth £6. In the reign of Henry I. a monastery was established within its walls, which was afterwards removed to Southwick; and in the year 1299 the castle, town, and forest of Port-

chester, then valued at £13. 16s. were settled by Edward I. on his second wife, Margaret of France, as a portion of her dower; and in the reign of Edward III. the abbey of Glastonbury, in Somersetshire, was bound to provide four men-at-arms for the defence of the castle and Portsmouth. The castle afterwards became the property of the prior and monks of Southwick, and upon the suppression of that monastery it came into the possession of John White, and now belongs to his descendant, Thomas Thistlewayte of Southwick Park. During our contest with France, the castle was rented by government, and converted to a place of confinement for prisoners-of-war, in which nearly 5,000 were here secured at one time.

The castle is situated at the extremity of a narrow neck of land extending a considerable way towards the middle of Portsmouth harbour, occupying an area of nearly five acres, surrounded by walls from eight to twelve feet in thickness, and eighteen feet high, defended by numerous towers, and a wide and deep moat. The keep is a strong square building with four towers, the largest of which forms the north-west angle, and contains many spacious rooms, some of which are vaulted with stone, and one of them appears to have been a chapel.

The parish church of Portchester was originally a cruciform structure, with a low tower rising at the intersection, and was 134 feet in length, and 83 in breadth at the transepts, one of which has been taken down. Though a portion of the church has been rebuilt, and other portions of it repaired at various periods, it still displays many specimens of Norman architecture. The western doorway has a noble arch splendidly enriched with double zig-zag ornaments, the whole based upon four small sculptured columns, two on each side of the doorway. The vicarage is in the patronage of the crown of the annual value of £180, but Lord Powerscourt is the impropiator of the great tythes.

SKETCH XXVI.

PETERSFIELD AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Petersfield - - - -	2090	£5434	1838
Buriton - - - -	6840	5829	993
Chalton with Idsworth - - -	3470	2506	659
Blendworth - - - -	3110	1268	280
Catherington - - -	3540	4868	1003
Clanfield - - - -	2280	803	239
Hambledon - - - -	9630	10308	2069
East Meon - - - -	11380	7449	1499
Froxfield - - - -	6460	2870	656
Steep - - - -	2500	4738	885
Liss - - - -	3380	2802	656
Hawken - - - -	1710	1339	323
Priors Dean - - - -	1290	656	163
Colemore - - - -	1270	833	144

THE borough and market town of *Petersfield*, situated near the Sussex border, derives its name from its church dedicated to St. Peter, on whose festival, old style, July 10th, there is still held an annual fair. The town is of considerable antiquity, and, although it is not mentioned in the Domesday Book by its present name, it is evident from the Norman foundation of its church, that even then people had congregated in the neighbourhood. It returned a member or members to parliament in the 35th year of the reign of Edward I, but did not make another return till the reign of Edward VI, from which period till the passing of the Reform Act, two members were invariably elected; but by that act the number was reduced to one, and the same borough limits were extended so as to include the parishes of Petersfield, Buriton, Lyss, and Froxfield, the tythings of Ramsden, Langrish, and Oxenbourne, in the parish of Westmeon,

and also the greater portion of the parish of Steep, comprising an area of more than 22,000 acres. The town was incorporated by a charter from Queen Elizabeth, and the governing body consists of a mayor and commonalty. The former is chosen annually at the court-leet of the lord of the manor held in January, when a constable and two tythingmen are also elected. The Town Hall was erected at the expense of Hylton Jolliffe, esq. the former patron of the borough.

Petersfield gives its name to one of the magisterial divisions of the county, and is the centre of a Poor Law Union comprising thirteen parishes. The town is situated on the old mail road from London to Portsmouth, and is tolerably well paved, and lighted by subscription. In the market place there is an equestrian statue of William III, which formerly was richly gilt, presented to the town by William Jolliffe, esq. an ancestor of the present representative of the borough; and on the pedestal there is an inscription of which the following is a translation:—"To the most noble and illustrious Prince William III. who so highly deserved the gratitude of these kingdoms for the many and signal offices which he rendered to the people, who seasonably preserved our pure and sincere worship of God, who bravely sustained the drooping state, restored the free force of the laws, and strengthened the authority of the senate; that no testimony might be wanting with how much love and emulation he admired liberty itself, as well as this its celebrated avenger, William Jolliffe, esq. erected this statue to his memory, and placed it in this town."

The church contains nothing worthy of notice, and the living is a chapelry annexed to the rectory of Buriton. A public school, known generally as "the college," was founded here in 1722 by William Churcher, who bequeathed the sum of £3,000 bank stock, and £5,000 in cash, for boarding and educating twelve boys who should subsequently be apprenticed to masters of ships "voyaging to the East Indies." Several acts of Parliament have been obtained for regulating the ex-

penditure of the funds, which have considerably increased. At the time of the investigation of charities, there were twelve boys belonging to the borough of Petersfield taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and mathematics, and clothed and apprenticed. There were also forty-five pay scholars, including thirty boarders, taught with the foundation boys. There was at the time a suit pending in the Court of Chancery for the regulation of this charity. A market for corn and cattle is held every alternate Wednesday, and fairs on July 10th for toys, on October 6th for lean cattle, and on December 11th for sheep.

About two miles to the south we have the village of *Buriton*, of which parish Petersfield may be said to form a part. The church is an ancient edifice, apparently of Norman foundation; the chancel is separated from the nave by a screen of Norway oak, and in it are three arched recesses, being the ancient sedelia, or seats for the officiating priests during certain portions of the mass; and on the floor are a few tessellated tiles with various uncouth figures upon them. There are aisles on each side of the nave, and the arches which separate them are of Norman workmanship, whilst their capitals are rudely ornamented with sculpture. The manor of Mapledurham, in this parish, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to Queen Matilda, the wife of William the Conqueror, and probably included the whole of the present parish, as it consisted of not less than twenty ploughlands, and contained a church, three mills, and woods which furnished thirty hogs, the whole being then worth £25. Edward I. granted by charter to the Bishop of Winchester free warren of the manor of Mapledurham, but the Abbey of Durford in Sussex, the Priory of St. Swithun, Winchester, as well as private individuals, appear to have possessed lands in this manor. Its principal estate was purchased in 1722, by Edward Gibbon, esq. the father of the justly celebrated historian of the "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," who was born here

April 27, 1787, and who, in 1770, by the death of his father, succeeded to the estate, which ten years afterward she sold to Lord Stowell, from whom it passed, also by purchase, into the possession of H. Bonham, esq. and is now the property of John Bonham Carter, esq. of Ditcham House. The parish is divided into four tythings, Buriton, Weston, Nursted, and Sheet; the latter is separated from the rest by the parish of Petersfield, and its inhabitants support their own poor, and are rated to the chapel at Petersfield, instead of the mother church at Buriton. The living is one of the richest in the patronage of the Bishop of Winchester, the great tythes of which have been commuted at £1,400.

The parishes of *Chalton*, *Clanfield*, and *Idsworth*, which lie to the south of Buriton, are united for ecclesiastical purposes as the rectory of Clanfield and the chapelry of Idsworth are annexed to the rectory of Chalton, which is of the gross annual value of £479, in the patronage of the Provost and Fellows of King's College, Cambridge. Clanfield is noticed in the Doomsday Book as containing a church, but there is no mention of either of the others. Idsworth House, the seat of the Rev. Samuel Jervoise, is a splendid mansion seated in a finely wooded park at the extreme verge of the county, and contains within its limits the parish church.

Blendworth, to the south of the last mentioned parishes, is a rectory of the net annual value of £226, the Rev. Edward Langton Ward patron and incumbent. William Appleford, who filled the situation of porter to Winchester College, bequeathed £200 in trust for the purchase of land, the rents thereof to be applied to the purposes of education. The property consists of a house and seventeen acres of land situated at Lovedean in the parish of Catherington, producing a rental of £16 and a rent charge of £3. 8s. 2d, arising from the sale of timber on the above mentioned land. A school, with apartments for the mistress, has been recently erected by public subscription, and the profits of a bazaar held

for that purpose, in which twelve girls are educated, but a portion of the funds are applied to the education of five boys at the National school at Horndean.

The adjoining parish to the east is *Catherington*, which gives its name to a Poor Law Union, comprising five parishes. The church is situated on an eminence, and contains a handsome monument to the memory of Sir Nicholas Hyde, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, and the living is a vicarage in the patronage of J. Hayward, esq. of the annual value of £250. This parish shares the bounty of the above mentioned William Appleford, who bequeathed to the churchwardens and overseers four closes, at Barton Stacey, for the education of children. The present rental is £16, of which two school-mistresses receive in equal moieties £15 for teaching forty-eight children, and the remainder is expended in the purchase of books. There is also another small endowed school founded about ten years since by the late John King, esq. of Portsea, who settled a rent-charge of £6 on his property, known as Lovedean farm, for that purpose.

Hambledon, the adjoining parish to the north-west, is mentioned in the Domesday Book, as are several of its manors, but it does not appear that there was any church within the district. The parish comprises the tythings of Hambledon, Chidden, Gledden, Envills or Leigh, and Denmead, and in each of the four last there was in ancient times a chapel, but the three first have been destroyed and that in Denmead converted into a farm-house. The church is a handsome structure in the Early English style with later details, and the living is a vicarage of the value of £529, in the patronage of the bishop, who is the appropriator of the great tythes. Windmill hill, now under tillage, is famed in the annals of cricketing as being the principal resort of the choice players of Hants, Surrey, and Sussex, whilst the men of Hambledon were for many years famed for their excellent science. A market is held on Tuesday, and fairs for horses were formerly held on February 8th, first Tuesday in May, and October 22nd.

The parish of *East Meon* abuts that of *Hambleton* on the north, and is mentioned as *Mene* in the *Doomsday Book*, belonging to the see of Winchester, and as containing a church and six mills. It is asserted that the present church, which presents a fine specimen of Norman architecture at its principal doorway, was erected by Bishop Walkelyn, the cousin of William the Conqueror. It is a cruciform structure with a tower rising at the intersection, upon which has been placed a spire. The south aisles of the naves and chancel are supposed to have been additions made to the original works as early as the 13th century, and some of the details are of subsequent periods. The font greatly resembles the one in Winchester cathedral, is of the same age, character and material, but the sculpture upon it is entirely different; that on the one at Winchester representing the legendary tales of St. Nicholas, and that at East Meon the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise, and their subsequent instruction in the arts of husbandry and spinning. The pulpit, which is of stone, is a fine specimen of perpendicular work. In the south-western window of the tower is suspended a tintinnabulum, or saints' bell, by which appellation it is still distinguished. The living is a vicarage, endowed with a portion of the great tythes, of the net annual value of £903, with the chapelries of Froxfield and Steep annexed, in the patronage of the bishop, who is the appropriator of the other portion of the tythes.

At *Froxfield* is an endowed school with an income of £55, founded by R. Love, esq. a former proprietor of Basing Park in this parish, in which twenty-two boys are educated and occasionally clothed. Basing Park probably took its name from forming part of the possessions of the St. John's, Lords Basing; for several centuries it belonged to the Love family, and after passing through several hands was purchased by Sir Thomas Lethbridge in 1830, and who five years afterwards sold it to its present proprietor, J. Martineau, esq. The mansion stands on an elevated site, and till

recently was but scantily supplied with water; a well had been sunk to the depth of 300 feet, but the spring was too feeble to render it available for more than a limited supply; the well being afterwards sunk ninety feet deeper, the water rose 130 feet, and the supply is now abundant. The park consists of about 300 acres, and is situated within the borough of Petersfield.

Steep, situated to the east of Froxfield and the Sussex border, comprises the tythings of Steep and Ambersham. The latter is a detached part of the county nine miles in length, and for the most part half a mile in width, extending from near Haslemere in Surrey to Midhurst in Sussex.

Liss, or Lyss Turney, the adjoining parish to the north, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as a manor belonging to the nuns of Winchester, and as containing a mill. The living is a chapelry belonging to the distant vicarage of Odiham, of the annual value of £96. The chancellor of Salisbury is the appropriator of the tythes, which are held by lease for lives by Lord Mornington.

In the small parish of *Hawkley* there is nothing worthy of notice; it is a chapelry annexed to the rectory of Newton Valence.

Prior's Dean derives its prefix from the manor formerly belonging to the prior and convent of Southwick. The church is an ancient structure, and contains some curious monuments to the Tichbourne and Compton families, and in the churchyard there is a gigantic yew tree, which is supposed to be surpassed by only one other in England.

The adjoining parish of *Colemere* is supposed to have derived its name from an ancient mere, on the borders of which vast quantities of charcoal were manufactured, and is called Colmere in the Domesday Book, and possessed a church. The manor was held by Humphrey, the chamberlain of the king, and it is probable that it did not pass out of the hands of royalty till King John bestowed it on the convent of Southwick. The living

is a rectory with the chapelry of Prior's Dean; the Rev. John Bury Bourne, patron and incumbent, the tythes of which have been commuted at £500, in addition to which there is a glebe of the value of £55. The church, which is an ancient structure, originally consisting of a nave and chancel, has recently been restored and enlarged by the addition of a south aisle. John Graves, the famed astronomical and mathematical professor in the University of Oxford, in the reign of Charles I. was a native of this parish, of which his father was the rector. He was born in 1602, and was the eldest of four sons, all of whom became eminent for their talents and learning. John entered Baliol College, Oxford, at the age of fifteen, but afterwards, for the greater advantage of his mathematical and philosophical pursuits, removed to Merton College, of which he became a Fellow in 1628. To increase his knowledge of the mathematics he studied the Oriental languages, and by the assistance and advice of Archbishop Laud, proceeded to Egypt, and visited the pyramids or sepulchres of the ancient Egyptian kings. After paying a visit to several of the Italian cities, he went to Constantinople, where he received assistance from the Greek patriarch in his search after valuable Greek and Arabic manuscripts, to purchase which, he had a commission from his patron the archbishop. Having gratified his thirst in ancient lore, and formed an ample collection of gems, statues, manuscripts, &c. he returned to England in 1639, and was four years afterwards appointed Savillian Professor of Astronomy in the University of Oxford. Upon the triumph of the Parliament, he suffered the general fate of the royalists, and was expelled the University. He then repaired to London, and to render a slender patrimony adequate to his maintenance, commenced the publication of his writings, and died in 1652. His death is thought to have been hastened by his intense application to study, and the anguish of mind which followed his expulsion from college.

SKETCH XXVII.

HAVANT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Havant - - - - -	2560	5043	2101
North Hayling - - -	1180	1745	277
South Hayling - - -	2490	3564	669
Warblington - - - -	2393	9374	2270
Bedhampton - - - -	2362	2293	537
Farlington - - - - -	2070	4417	723

THE parish of *Havant* comprises the tythings of Havant, Brockhampton and Leigh, of which, the two former are mentioned in the Domesday Book. The manor of Havehunte, held by the Bishop of Winchester for the use of his monks, contained seven ploughlands on which twenty villagers employed six ploughs, two mills, three salterns, and woods which furnished ten hogs, and was worth £8. The manor of Brockentune formed part of the possessions of Hugh de Port, and had previously belonged to the unfortunate earl, afterwards king, Harold. The town of Havant is situated about midway between Portsmouth and Chichester, and consists principally of one long street crossed by a second at right angles. It is the centre of a Poor Law Union, comprising six parishes, and is a polling place for the southern division of the county. The market-day is on Saturday, held under a charter granted by King John, and fairs are held on the 22nd of June and 17th of July.

The church is a spacious cruciform structure of Norman foundation, but contains workmanship of a much later date, and consists of a nave, chancel, aisles, and transepts, with pointed arches springing from circular

columns. In the north aisle, there is an ancient tomb, surmounted by an effigy, in his canonicals, of Thomas Aylward, the confidential friend and secretary to William of Wykeham, and rector of this parish, and in the north porch and in the south transepts are the remains of stone seats. At the intersection of the cross there rises a square embattled tower, with pinnacles at the corner, fifty-four feet in height. The chancel has a handsome groined ceiling, and, at the east end, a handsome stained glass window, the gift of Sir Thomas Staunton, has been recently inserted. A district church has been erected and endowed at Redhill, and there is in the town an Independant chapel and a Catholic chapel.

Leigh Park, situated at a short distance to the north of Havant, is the seat of Sir George Thomas Staunton, bart. M.P. by whom the park and mansion have been materially improved. The estate was purchased by the father of the present baronet, the late Sir George Staunton, who was born in Galway, in Ireland, and bred to surgery and physic; but taking himself to the West Indies, he quitted physic and studied law, and making a tolerable fortune by his practice, purchased an estate in Grenada, and obtained the friendship of Lord Macartney, the Governor, acting as his secretary and as Attorney-General for the island. On Lord Macartney's appointment to the Government of Madras, Mr. Staunton accompanied him as his secretary, as he did on his embassy to the Celestial empire. After his return to England he was created a baronet, and published the well known work entitled Lord Macartney's Embassy to China, and died in 1801.

The parish of *Warblington* lies between that of Havant and the county of Sussex. The church, situated near the sea shore, is an ancient structure, founded, according to tradition, by two maiden ladies, the last descendants of the noble family of De Warblington, several of whom had been sheriffs and knights of this shire, it consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, with a small chapel or oratory at the termination of each

aisle. The aisles are separated from the nave by pointed arches, which spring from columns, with this distinction, that those on the north side are plain, and solid, about eight feet in height, including the bases and capitals, and about two feet in diameter; whilst the arches on the south side are supported by groups of columns of singular elegance. In the centre of each group is a small octagon pillar of freestone, which is surmounted by four pillars of grey marble, the bases which connect these groups being neatly moulded, as well as the capitals. This singular irregularity was intended, it is supposed, to show the part that was erected by each of the foundresses. Each aisle is terminated by a small chapel eight feet square, originally separated from the church by a screen. In the chapel on the south is an ancient altar tomb, decorated by the effigy of a female with her head resting on a pillow and her feet supported by the figure of a lion; and on the opening of the tomb, a perfect skeleton, ascertained to be that of a female, was discovered. About forty-five years since, some workmen employed in removing pews on the north aisle of the church, discovered a niche on the outside wall, which contained a stone coffin seven feet long, on the top of which lay the figure of a lady in grey marble, and which, by the direction of the rector, was opened, and found to contain the remains of a female skeleton, but much decayed by the damp; the teeth however were perfectly sound, and some fine ringlets of hair were in good preservation. The workmanship of this tomb was nearly of the same date as that in the southern chapel; and these discoveries are confirmatory of the ancient tradition of the place as to the foundation of the church. In addition to the above, the church contains several other stone coffins, all similar in form, but of various lengths, from five feet and a half to seven feet, and gradually diminishing from the head to the foot. They are all of them made of solid stone, hollowed out for containing the corpse, with receptacles for the head, neck, shoulders, arms, legs and feet, particularly and curiously formed.

The chancel had been formerly paved with small square tiles of various patterns, inlaid with yellow composition, very much resembling those in William of Wykeham's chantry in Winchester Cathedral. The living is a rectory, in the gift of the Rev. W. Norris, the tythes of which have been commuted at £740, in addition to which there is a glebe of thirty acres. Near the church there are some ruins known as Warblington Castle, supposed to have formed part of the ancient mansion of the de Warblingtons, or, more properly, of their ancestors, the Montacutes, earls of Salisbury. The castle appears to have been built with brick, faced on the outside with hewn stone, and was originally a square pile of about 209 feet, surrounded by a quadrangular court, but the only part now standing is a gateway and tower, fast mouldering away. The whole was surrounded by a fosse ten feet deep, and included about an acre of ground. Before the northern angle appears to have been an entrenched camp of five acres, now overgrown with wood, surrounded by a bank nearly eight feet high, and a ditch to a similar depth to that round the castle. In the reign of Henry VIII. the castle and manor of Warblington was held by Sir Richard Cotton, comptroller of the household, whose son, Dr. Henry Cotton, was godson to Queen Elizabeth, and was by her Majesty made Bishop of Salisbury, to whom, when she had advanced him to that see, she said that formerly she had blessed many of her godsons but never before had she a godson that should bless her. With this bishop, Dr. William Cotton, of another family, was consecrated Bishop of Exeter; "whereupon the Queen," says Fuller, "made this pun—'that she had now well *Cottoned* the west,' alluding to the plenty of clothing in those parts." In addition to the parish church, there is a chapel of ease at Emsworth, a seaport situated at the head of an inlet to the sea, and immediately opposite to Thorney Island. The town is of considerable antiquity, for in the reign of Henry II. the fishery of Emsworth paid a rent of 8s. 8d. per annum. The in-

habitants derive much of their support from ship and boat building, rope and sail making, and other maritime occupations. It has also an oyster fishery in high repute, and an extensive trade in timber. The town possesses by charter the right of holding a fair on Easter Monday, and another on the 18th of July. Rowland Castle is a hamlet situated at the north-western extremity of the parish, and was in former times a place of importance; and, according to local tradition, was at one time the residence of Rowland the Great. That a mansion once occupied the site is evident, from the remains of its decayed and mouldering walls, and from the establishment of two annual fairs, in May and November, which are numerous attended by cattle dealers of Hants, Sussex, and Surrey.

Hayling Island, which lies to the south of Havant and on the eastern side of Langston Harbour, is divided into two parishes, North Hayling and South Hayling, which is four miles in length from the ferry house on the north to the main beach on the south. It appears that a religious house existed in the island previous to the Norman Conquest. The following is the mention made of the manor in the Domesday Book: "The abbey of Lumige (in Normandy) holds Helingey; Ulward the friar held it of Queen Eddid (wife of Edward the Confessor) allodially. It was then assessed at twelve hides; it is now assessed at seven hides. Here are fourteen ploughlands, of which two are held in demense, and twenty-three villagers and thirty-seven borderers employ seventeen ploughs. Here are three servants, and a saltern which pays sixteen shillings and eightpence, two fisheries worth twentypence, and one acre of meadow; also woods which furnished twenty hogs for the privilege of the pannage. It is now worth £12, but pays a rent of 15. The monks of the diocese of Winchester claim this manor, because Queen Emma (widow of Canute the Great), gave it to the churches of St. Peter and St. Swithin, and at the same time put the monks in possession of one-half; the other half she

gave to Ulward the friar, on these conditions—that he should hold it during his life, and for the expenses of his funeral, and that afterwards it should return to the monastery; and this part of the manor was held by Ulward of the monks till he died, which happened in the reign of King William. The fact is attested by Elsi, Abbot of Ramsey, and by the whole hundred.” At the suppression of the alien priories the manor of Hayling was given by Henry V. to his new foundation of Carthusians, at Sheen, in Surrey, and at the dissolution of the lesser monasteries the lands at Hayling were granted to the college of Arundel, in exchange for other estates; and on the surrender of that college they were re-granted to Henry, Earl of Arundel, from whom they passed to his lineal descendant the late Duke of Norfolk, from whom the rectory, manor, and Isle of Hayling, with all grants and charters connected therewith, were purchased under an Act of Parliament by W. Padwick, esq. in 1825. The living of South Hayling is a vicarage, with the perpetual curacy of North Hayling annexed, of the annual value of £211, in the patronage of Mr. Padwick. South Hayling, which for some time has been progressing as a watering place embraces in its views on the south the British Channel, and on the south-west Spithead and the Isle of Wight.

The parish of *Bedhampton* adjoins that of Havant on the eastward, and is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being held of the Abbey of Winchester by Hugh de Port, and as containing a church, two mills for the use of the hall, two salterns which paid 13s. 8d. three acres of meadow, and woods which furnished thirty hogs. The manor was afterwards held by the second son of Edward I. Edmund Earl of Kent, who was beheaded at Winchester, in 1330, and was subsequently enjoyed by his son John, who, dying in 1352, this manor and other his estates were assigned to Elizabeth his widow, as her dower, according to the custom of the age. This Elizabeth, says Dugdale, was inconsolable for the loss of her husband; she assumed the

veil, intending to spend the remainder of her days in the service of her Saviour and the Virgin; but meeting with an accomplished gentle knight, Sir Eustace Dabrichescourt, her resolution wavered; she was unable to withstand the impression his agreeable behaviour made upon her heart, and, notwithstanding her solemn vow, was clandestinely married to him before sun-rising on Michaelmas day, by Sir Robert Ireland, a priest, in a certain chapel belonging to the mansion house of Robert de Broome, a canon in the collegiate church of Wingham, in Kent, without having obtained a licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury; for which offence both she and her husband, being personally convened before the archbishop, were by him enjoined as a penance to find a priest who should celebrate divine service daily in the chapel of "Our Lady," within the church of Wingham, and that the priest should every day say over the Penitential Psalms and the Litany for them and all faithful Christians, and also the *Placebo* and *Dirige* for all the faithful deceased; and further, that every morning, having risen from his bed, he should say five *Paternosters* and *Aves* kneeling, looking upon the wounds of the image of the crucifix, and as many every night of like sort, and moreover, that they should find another priest, continually residing with one of them, to celebrate divine service for them after the same manner as the priest at Wingham, and to say the seven Penitential Psalms and fifteen gradual Psalms, with the Litany, *Placebo* and *Dirige*; and lastly, appointing that the said Elizabeth should every year go on foot to visit the shrine of that glorious martyr, St. Thomas of Canterbury (Thomas à Becket, interred in the cathedral of that city), and once in every week during her life take no other food than bread and drink and a mess of pottage, wearing no smock, especially in the absence of her husband. The lady appears to have lived to a very advanced age, dying in the year 1411, and by her will, dated at Bedhampton, she directed that her body should be interred, without any worldly solemnity, in the church of the

Friars Minors, at Winchester, which was situated at the northern extremity of the present Lowerbrook street, and in which had been buried the body of her unfortunate father-in-law, the earl of Kent; and appointed that five tapers, each of them five pounds weight, should burn about her corpse upon her funeral day for ever. The living is a rectory in the patronage of A. Reed, esq. the tythes of which have been commuted at £330, in addition to which there is a glebe of 21 acres, valued at £30.

Farlington, the next parish to the east, is also mentioned in the Domesday Book, but was of small extent, and does not appear to have possessed either church or mill. In the reign of Edward III. the manor of Drayton, in this parish, was held of the king by grand serjeantry, providing one soldier to guard the eastern gate of Portchester castle, for fifteen days in time of war. Purbrook House, now the seat of John Deverell, esq. was formerly the property of Charles Taylor, esq. who endeavoured to cut a passage through Portsdown Hill, with a view of conveying water to supply the town of Portsmouth: Seaton, the celebrated civil engineer, was consulted, and four shafts were sunk, but the design, was not carried into effect. The church, which is situated on the road from Portsmouth to Chichester, is an ancient edifice and contains a grave-stone signifying that under it rest the remains of a Knight Templar. In the churchyard there is a tombstone to William Hooker and Mary his wife, who lived together in a married state seventy-five years, he dying in 1755, at the age of 97; and she two years afterwards, of the small pox, in the hundredth year of her age. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of C.R. Richards, esq. of the annual value of £620.

SKETCH XXVIII.

PORTSMOUTH—DESCRIPTIVE SKETCH.

"The great King of kings
Hath in the table of his law commanded,
That thou shalt do no murder." SHAKESPEARE.

PORTSMOUTH, though of lower antiquity than any other of our Hampshire boroughs, is far more important than any of them, and with its component parts, Portsea, Landport, and Southsea, contains a population nearly equal to the whole of them united. The name, according to some ancient writers, is derived from Porta, a Saxon chief, who landed here in 501; but it is far more reasonable to suppose that it takes its name from its situation, being at the mouth or entrance to the port or harbour; in like manner Portchester, the castle of the port, and Portsea, the island of the port: *ea* or *æ* signifying an island.

The most ancient historical event connected with Portsmouth on which reliance can be placed, is that it was the landing place of Robert, Duke of Normandy, eldest son of William the Conqueror, when he came to dispute the crown with his younger brother, Henry I. in 1101. The latter was, at the time, at Pevensey, in Sussex, with a considerable force, expecting the hostile invasion of his dominions; and the former was so long delayed in the debarkation of his troops, that Henry had time to return to Hampshire, and intercept his march towards Winchester, where the royal treasures were at that period deposited. By the interposition of Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, a peace was patched up

between the royal brothers, and Robert having obtained a yearly pension of three thousand marks for the cession of his rights, quietly returned to Normandy, leaving his English adherents to the vengeance of their remorseless and enraged sovereign. During the reign of Henry, Portsmouth is said to have risen to considerable importance, as the Saxon Chronicle informs us that the king held his court here in the Whitsun week, 1123, instead, as was then customary, in the city of Gloucester. In the year 1140, Portsmouth was the landing place of the Empress Matilda, who came to England attended by her natural brother, Robert, Earl of Gloucester, and no more than one hundred and forty knights, to seat herself on the throne of England, which was then filled by King Stephen. Richard I. granted the town its first charter, in which, after declaring that he retains *Portes-muse* in his own hands, with all that belongs to it, he granted to its burgesses the privilege of an annual fair (now known as Free Mart), to extend to 15 days, and a weekly market, together with all the rights and immunities enjoyed by the citizens of Winchester and Oxford, whilst from some ancient documents it has been recently ascertained that there was a naval station here in the reign of King John.

It does not appear that the town of Portsmouth possessed a church till the latter part of the reign of Henry II. it being included in the parish of Portsea. Richard de Toclive, Bishop of Winchester with the assistance of the prior and canons, in whom was the advowson of the benefice, erected the parish church, which was dedicated to the great Saint of the day, Thomas à Becket, or of Canterbury, in the persecution of whom Toclive had been a party in early life. His episcopacy commenced in 1174 and terminated in 1788, which would give to portions of the present structure an antiquity of six and a half centuries.

In the reign of Henry III. the inhabitants, founding the request on a clause in the ancient charter, begged of the King that the itinerant Justices (Judges of Assize)

might visit the town, and, to give a greater weight to their prayer, they presented his majesty with three casks of wines. During the war incident to the claim set up by Edward III. to the crown of France, the proportion of ships and mariners furnished by the port of Portsmouth were far less than those furnished by either Southampton, the Isle of Wight, Hamble or Lymington; whilst it was for several centuries considered a mere appendage to the more important port of Southampton. At the commencement of the reign of Richard II. (1372), the town was taken and burnt by the French, but soon recovered itself, for six years afterwards, says an old writer, when the French appeared again insulting the coasts, the people of this port sent out some ships, fought the enemy, slew all but nine, and took all their ships. Being encouraged by this success, they again, two years afterwards, entered the Seine, sunk four of the enemy's ships, took many, and burnt one of the Admiral's small ships, which he had built for pleasure (the finest vessel of that kind in France or England), returning with a great booty of wines and merchandize. Edward VI. either first fortified the place or greatly increased and strengthened the more ancient bulwarks; and they were still further improved by Richard III. and Henry VII. and in the reign of Henry VIII. Portsmouth was the principal naval arsenal of England. Leland, who visited the place about the year 1548, thus notices it in his *Itinerary* :—"The land here, on the east side of Portsmouth haven, runs further by a great way straight into the sea, by the south-east from the haven mouth, than it does on the west point. There is, at the point of the haven, Portsmouth town, and a great round tower, almost double in quantity and strength to that on the west side of the haven right against it, and here is a mighty chain of iron to draw from tower to tower. About a quarter of a mile above this tower there is a great dock for ships, and in this dock lies the ribs of the *Henry Grace of Dieu*, one of the biggest ships that has been made within the memory of man. There are above

this dock creaks in this part of the haven. The town of Portsmouth is murid from the east tower a forough length, with a mud wall armed with brass ordinance, and this piece of the wall having a ditch without it, runs so far flat south south-east, and is the place most apt to defend the town, there open on the haven. There runs a ditch almost flat east for a space, and within it is a wall of mud like to the other, and then goes on round about the town for the circuit of a mile. There is a gate of timber at the north-east end of the town, and by it there is cast up a hill of earth ditched, whereon be guns to defend the entry into the town by land. There is much vacant ground within the town wall, and there is one fair street in the town west to north-east. I learned in the town that the towers at the mouth of the haven were begun in the time of Edward IV. and set forward in building by Richard III.; and that Henry VII ended them at the procuration of Fox, Bishop of Winchester. Henry VIII. at the time of his first wars with France, erected in the south part of the town three great *Brewing Houses*, with implements to serve his ships at such time as they should go to sea in the time of war. One carpenter, a rich man, made, of late time, in the middle of the High street of the town, a Town House. The town is bare and little occupied in time of peace."

Portsmouth had then risen to the high station which it still occupies, the most important arsenal in the kingdom, and as such drew the attention of the French in 1544, when a large fleet, under the command of D'Annebant, Admiral of France, came off the Isle of Wight and stretched along the shore of St. Helens, with the intent to destroy Portsmouth. The English fleet, under the command of Lord Lisle, anchored off Spithead to to receive them, and a distant cannonade continued for two days between the two fleets; the French, however, at length thought it the wisest policy to retire, which they did, after having plundered a part of the Isle of Wight. During the engagement, the *Mary Rose*, one

of the largest of the English ships, and commanded by Sir George Crew, was overpowered by the weight of its own ordnance, and heeling greatly, the water rushed in at her port holes and sunk her, by which accident 600 men, with her commander, were drowned. Portsmouth was one of the places visited by Edward VI. during his progress through the western counties, and is thus mentioned in the youthful sovereign's letter, dated 1522, to his friend Barnaby Fitz-Patrick: "From this place we went to Portsmouth, and there viewed not only the town itself and the haven, but also divers bulwarks, in the viewing of which we find the bulwarks chargeable, massy, and ramparted; but ill-fashioned, ill-flanked, and set in remote places; the town great in comparison to what it ought to be, and within the walls there are fair and large closes and much vacant room. The haven is notable, great, and standing by nature easy to be fortified; and for the more strength thereof, we have devised two strong castles, on either side of the haven, at the mouth thereof; for at the mouth of the haven it is not past ten score over, but in the middle almost a mile over, and for the length of a mile and a half able to bear the greatest ships in Christendom."

Queen Elizabeth added new works to the old fortification, so that there seemed nothing wanting to make the town a complete fortress, and that almost impregnable. In the early part of the reign of Charles I. Portsmouth was appointed for the rendezvous of the armament destined to relieve the Protestants of Rochelle then besieged by Cardinal Richelieu. The King's favourite, Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, to whom was intrusted the command of the expedition, had arrived here, and was hastening the embarkation of his troops, when he was murdered by John Felton, a person who had formerly held the situation of lieutenant. The murder took place at a house in the High street, then a large Inn and known as the *Spotted Dog*, and the particulars are thus given by the Rev. Dr. Lingard:—

"In the morning, August 23, after a sharp debate

with some of the French refugees, the duke left his dressing-room to proceed to his carriage. He had entered the hall, when colonel Friar whispered in his ear. He turned to listen, and at the moment received a wound in the left breast from a knife, which was left sticking in his heart. Exclaiming the word "villain," he plucked it out, staggered backwards a few steps, and, falling against a table, was caught in the arms of his attendants. They thought it had been a stroke of apoplexy : but the blood which gushed from his mouth and from the wound convinced them of their mistake. The noise was heard by the duchess in her bed-chamber, who, with his sister, the countess of Anglesea, ran into the gallery, and saw her lord below, weltering in his blood."

"In the confusion which followed it was with difficulty that the French gentlemen escaped the vengeance of those who suspected them of the murder. The real assassin slunk away to the kitchen, where he might have remained unnoticed in the crowd, had he not on a sudden alarm drawn his sword and exclaimed, 'I am the man.' He would have met with the death which he sought, had not Carleton and Marten saved his life, that they might inquire into his motives and discover his accomplices. About his person was found a paper, on which he had written, 'That man is Cowardly base and deserveth not the name of a gentleman or Souldier that is not willing to sacrifice his life for the honor of his God, his Kinge and his Countrie. Lett noe man commend me for doeinge of it, but rather discommend themselves, as the cause of it, for if God had not taken our harts for or sinnes he would not haue gone so long vnpunished. Jo felton.'

"He said that his name was Felton; that he was a protestant, that he had been a lieutenant in the army, but had retired from the service, because on two occasions junior officers had been advanced over his head, and the sum of eighty pounds, the arrears of his pay, had been withheld; and that the remonstrance of the House of

Commons had convinced him that Buckingham was the cause of the national calamities, and that to bereave him of life was to serve his God, his king, and his country. When he was told that the duke still lived, he answered with a sarcastic smile, that it could not be, the wound was mortal; to those who reproached him with the guilt of murder he replied, that 'in his soul and conscience he believed the remonstrance to be a sufficient warrant for his conduct;' and, being asked who were his instigators and accomplices, he exclaimed, that the merit and the glory were exclusively his own. He had travelled seventy miles to do the deed, and by it he had saved his country. Otherwise he felt no enmity to the duke. Even as he struck he had prayed, 'May God have mercy on thy soul.'"

Reflection and confinement subdued the enthusiastic spirit of Felton, he expressed remorse for what he had done and suffered death with composure and resignation. He was executed at Tyburn, but his body was afterwards hung in chains on Southsea Common, where his gibbet stood not many years since. The dagger which he used in the commission of his purpose is now in the possession of T. Thistlewayte, esq. of Southwick Park.

Upon the breaking out of the civil war between Charles I. and his Parliament the English fleet having declared in favour of the latter, Portsmouth was easily secured and garrisoned but it was one of the first places that declared for Charles II. upon his restoration to the crown. In the year 1662 that monarch was married in this town to Catherine, Infanta of Portugal. The king was so well pleased with his bride, and so little aware of his own weakness, that he boasted to his friends of the pattern of conjugal fidelity which he should henceforth set to his court; yet, within a few weeks afterwards, he had the unblushing cruelty to present to the Queen, in the midst of a brilliant court, his mistress, Lady Castlemaine, who had recently borne him a son, and actually appointed her first lady of the bed-chamber to the Queen. During the reign of Charles, and also in the

reigns of James II. and William III. considerable additions and improvements were made to the fortifications, and in the dock-yard and town. A short time previous to the Revolution in 1688, Colonel Beaumont, who commanded the garrison in the absence of the king's natural son, the Duke of Berwick, refused to admit some Irish Catholics into the garrison, as directed by the duke; for which the colonel and five other Protestant officers were thrown into prison, where they remained until the landing of the Prince of Orange, afterwards William III. at Torbay.

The improvements which were effected at Portsmouth towards the close of the seventeenth century are thus noticed in the *Magna Britannia*, published at the commencement of the last century :—" Since the late wars (those of William III.) this port, which has been the constant rendezvous of the grand fleets and the squadrons of convoys of merchants' ships, homeward and outward bound, and up and down the channel, is so increased and enriched that those who knew and saw it fifty years ago, would not know it in its present condition, everything being altered so much for the better, as well as in the multitude of inhabitants, the extent, strength, and magnificence of the land fortifications, as well as things belonging to the sea." The eulogium might with propriety have been repeated fifty years afterwards, and again fifty years still later. The great and progressive increase of the naval establishments and trade of Portsmouth at the commencement of the last century, and the vast augmentation of building dependent thereon, rendered the town insufficient for its inhabitants, and an open common without the walls, on the north, was chosen as the most convenient spot for additional houses. As these became inhabited, new ones were erected, and were again rapidly followed by others, till the new buildings fairly outstripped in extent and population the original town, and was in the year 1792 recognized by the Legislature as the town of Portsea, when an Act was passed for paving and otherwise

improving the place. The fortifications were commenced in 1770, and completed during the American war. Yet, even now additional houses raise their heads beyond the glacis; and during the lengthened war with France the populous and extensive towns of Landport, then called Half-way-Houses, and Southsea, were said to be formed; and previous to its conclusion, the stately terraces of the latter had been erected. In the "dull piping time of peace," which now succeeded, when it had been prognosticated that grass would grow even in the streets of the old town, these suburbs rapidly increased, and each of them contains a population less only to Southampton among the boroughs and towns of Hampshire.

Connected with Portsmouth are the historical events of the trial and execution of Admiral Byng, the sinking of the *Royal George*, and the destruction of the *Boyne*. The first of these took place on board his majesty's ship *Monarque*, then lying in the harbour 1756. Admiral Byng the year previously had been appointed to the command of ten ships of the line, destined for the relief of the Isle of Minorca, at that time menaced by the French. His equipments were by no means adequate to the services required, and on touching at Gibraltar, to take in provisions and to refit, he learned that not less than twelve sail of the line, numerous frigates, and a large flotilla of transports from Toulon had already landed 19,000 men in Minorca, and that the whole Island, except fort St. Phillippe, had been reduced. A council of war, declared, on the unanimous authority of officers well acquainted with the island, that relief, under these circumstances, was impossible. Nevertheless, Byng proceeded, and made an unsuccessful attempt to establish a communication with the garrison with his frigates. An engagement with the French squadron ensued, and the fleets separated after an indecisive action, in which Byng took little part. The clamour raised at home was more directed against the Ministry, who had neglected to fit out the fleet properly, than against the admiral who had fought

languidly, and the Cabinet weakly and wickedly resolved to sacrifice Byng, in the hope of securing their own reputation. They were assisted in this design by his professional unpopularity; his habits were austere, he was a rigid disciplinarian, and had no brilliant former service to urge in his favour. He was accordingly superceeded, and brought to a court martial. On the third of July, 1756, he was put under arrest at Spithead, but the trial did not take place till the following December. It appeared from the evidence that he had not been anxious to engage, but ample testimony was borne as to his courage. In his defence he inveighed against the policy of the enterprise, showing the little chance of victory which the crippled state of his ships permitted him to entertain, and the calamitous results which must have followed defeat. After a long trial he was found guilty of not having done his utmost, sentenced to be shot, but unanimously recommended to mercy. This remonstrance, as well as the petitions of Lord Torrington, nephew of the unhappy admiral, and other persons of high distinction, proved ineffectual. He was marked out as the scape-goat of his political enemies; the press was employed against him, the poet Mallet leading the van. In pursuance of his sentence his execution took place on board the *Monarque*, in Portsmouth harbour, and he met his fate with calmness and fortitude. He walked out of the cabin with unchanged countenance to the quarter deck, where the marines were stationed to execute his sentence. He desired to die with his eyes uncovered; but it being represented that his intrepid looks might intimidate the soldiers and frustrate their aim, he tied a handkerchief over his eyes, and then dropping another, five musket balls passed through his body, and he died instantly. An historian of the day says of him that, whatever his errors or indiscretions might have been, he seemed to have been rashly condemned, meanly given up, and cruelly sacrificed to vile considerations. He delivered a paper to the marshal of the Admiralty on the morning of his death, wherein he

expressed his conviction that he should hereafter be regarded as a victim to divert the indignation and resentment of an injured and deluded people from the proper objects, and that his very enemies believed him innocent.

The *Royal George*, which was sunk by accident at Spithead, 22nd of August, 1782, was considered one of the finest ships in the navy, and carried 108 guns. In the month of August, in that year, a fleet was hastily equipped at Portsmouth, including the *Royal George*, which had but just returned from the West Indies. Previous to her again going out it was necessary that her keel should undergo repair, to effect which the ship was laid in a certain degree on her side. The business was undertaken early in the morning of the twenty-eighth of August, and the carpenter finding it necessary to strip off more of her sheeting than was first expected, the eagerness of the workmen to come at the leek, induced them to lay her more on her side than was first intended. About ten o'clock a sudden squall from the north-west threw her broadside on the water, and the lower deck ports not having been lashed down, she filled and sunk in about three minutes. A victualler, which lay alongside, was swallowed up in the whirlpool which the sudden plunge of so vast a body into the water occasioned, and several small craft though, at some distance, were in imminent danger. Her gallant admiral, Kempenfelt, was at the time writing in his cabin, and he, with many of his officers, and most of those who were between the decks perished. As the ship had but lately returned home there were a great number of women on board, and it is supposed that nearly seven hundred persons were drowned, though every assistance was rendered by the boats of the fleet, which had just returned from a successful cruise. The number of those that escaped has been set down at nearly three hundred, among whom was the late Admiral, Sir Philip Durham.

The destruction of the *Boyne*, a ninety-eight gun ship, took place in 1795. On the afternoon of the 1st

of May, the ship, which was then lying in the harbour was discovered to be on fire, and as the wind blew smartly from the south-west, the flames spread through the ship with great rapidity. Most of the crew were saved by boats, but the heat at length became so great and the danger so imminent that no further assistance could be given, and on the return of the tide she drifted out of the harbour, the fire issuing through every port-hole. Her lower guns were shotted, and as these went off much damage was done, and some lives lost. After burning about seven hours, her powder magazine blew up, with an explosion which was sensibly felt over all Portsmouth. Shots and pieces of timber were thrown to a great distance, several boats were blown to atoms, and twenty of their hands perished.

SKETCH XXIX.

PORTSMOUTH—DESCRIPTIVE SKETCH.

Parishes.	Acres.	Houses.	Population.
Portsmouth . . .	110	1279	9352
Portsea	4080	9378	43678

THE borough of Portsmouth, which comprises the fortified towns of Portsmouth proper and Portsea, and the populous districts of Landport and Southsea, containing a population of 53,032, is co-extensive with the parishes of Portsmouth and Portsea, and has returned two members to Parliament, without interruption, from the 23rd of the reign of Edward I. Previous to the passing of the Reform Act the elective franchise was confined to the corporation, but at the present time the number of voters amount to nearly 2,000. For municipal purposes it is divided into seven wards, and is governed by a mayor, fourteen aldermen and forty-two councillors. Queen Elizabeth conferred on the corporation the privilege of electing their own Justices of the Peace, independent of the county; but the charter under which the town was governed till the passing of the Municipal Act, was the one granted by Charles I. which recognised a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, and an unlimited number of burgesses, which in general was under one hundred.

The town of Portsmouth forms but a small portion of this extensive borough, and, with the exception of a small but populous suburb called the Point, is strongly fortified. It is about a mile and a half in circuit, and is

divided into two nearly equal parts by the principal street, and is intersected by several others. The fortifications, which surround the town, are said to be the most complete in Europe, and the ramparts which are in general ornamented with trees, afford not only extensive and delightful views, but a place of recreation to the inhabitants. The gateways are four in number, the principal one, Landport, is of a rustic character, and Point gate, erected by James II. is an elegant specimen of the Corinthian order, from a design by Inigo Jones.

The parish church, dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury, is situated in St. Thomas street, and was erected towards the close of the 12th century. The chancel and transepts alone display specimens of the original workmanship; the nave and aisles having been pulled down and rebuilt in 1693, when the ancient columns were substituted by plain pillars of the Tuscan order, from which spring circular arches that support the roof. When this alteration was carried into effect the ceiling of the chancel was made flat, to correspond with the nave, which is finely decorated with cornices; the consequence of which was, that the noble groining of the roof was hidden, and a beautiful Catharine-wheel window blocked up, but within a recent period this incongruity has been removed, and the chancel displays its pristine beauty. At the intersection of the cross there rises a square tower, which supports a cupola 120 feet in height, surmounted by a gilt model of a ship for a weather vane, which has a small shifting flag on the mizen mast that moves at the slightest motion of the air, and indicates from what quarter the wind blows, when there is not sufficient to move the hull of the ship. The tower contains a peal of eight musical bells, five of which were presented to the parish by Prince George of Denmark, the husband of Queen Anne. Behind the altar there is a large and elaborate monument, or rather cenotaph, in memory of the Duke of Buckingham, murdered by Felton, mentioned in the last sketch, having in the centre a marble urn, in which the heart of that ill-fated nobleman is said to be deposited. The

surrounding sculpture, as well as the inscription, abounds with those ridiculous conceits so much in vogue at the latter end of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The urn is surmounted by a Phoenix, and on each side there is a pyramid of warlike instruments; above are the family arms, supported by angels, and, at the base, allegorical figures, representing Fame with her trumpet, and Sincerity with an open hand, whilst the inscription, which is in Latin, is replete with the most fulsome adulations. The east window is of stained glass, presented by the late vicar, the Rev. C. B. Henvile, and has three compartments, the centre one representing the Ascension of our Saviour; and the two lateral ones, the Blessed Virgin and Divine Infant, and St. John the Baptist. the whole beautifully ornamented with appropriate designs, including the armorial bearings of the donor and Winchester College.

In the register books of the church appears an entry, finely illuminated, of the marriage of Charles II. and Catherine, Infanta of Portugal, 1662; and also of a quantity of communion plate, presented by James II. to the church, namely, two silver flagons, one silver chalice, two large silver pattens, and one small silver patten, the whole weighing one hundred and nineteen ounces. Together with other curious documents, there is, among the parish papers, an inventory of property belonging to the church in 1636, which runs as follows:—"One new Bible, two books of Common Prayer, Bishop Jewell's works, one silver chalice with a cover to him, two pewter flagons for the communion table, two surplices, two diaper table-cloths. and two napkins of diaper; one table-cloth of branched damask, being red and yellow; one cushion and cloth belonging to the pulpit, of the same damask; one pall, the bed of it cloth of gold; two fair cushions of cloth of gold, laced with gold; one needle-work cushion for the pulpit wrought on both sides with gold, silk, and silver; one cushion for the communion table, of red velvet embroidered with gold; one Saint's bell at the top of the

church, four bells in the tower, two small bells for the quarter clock, one great clock, one quarter clock, and one pair of chimes." The living is a vicarage, formerly dependent on the priory of Southwick, and now in the patronage of Winchester College, of the annual value of £555.

For the accommodation of the inhabitants of Portsmouth, a second church has recently been erected near St. Mary street, on a spot of ground which had long been used as a burial place, and on which, even so lately as the reign of Queen Elizabeth, stood the chapel of St. Mary. The new erection is dedicated to the same saint, and is a spacious and elegant structure, capable of holding 1,200 persons. The ground is known as Colewert gardens, and was previous to the Reformation either the garden or burial ground to a Franciscan Friary which occupied the site of the present Colewert Barracks.

The garrison chapel, situated near the Grand Parade was, previous to the reign of Henry VIII. attached to the hospital of St. Nicholas, or God's House. Of the original structure only the chancel remains, but the chapel contains a great number of interesting monuments in honour of those who have fought and conquered in their country's cause. The hospital was founded in 1238, by Peter de Rupibus, Bishop of Winchester; its original purport is unknown, but that the institution was somewhat of a monastic character, may be gathered from the fact that it was suppressed with the other religious foundations of England, by Henry VIII. At the dissolution of the establishment the hospital was converted into a dwelling-house for the Governor of the town, and the chapel assigned to the use of the garrison. A portion of the Parade was the cemetery, in which not only the inmates of the hospital, but strangers might be interred, provided that the body was first taken to the mother church of St. Thomas. At the period of the dissolution of the hospital its revenues amounted to £33 19s. 5½d. arising principally from the rents of small closes in the neighbourhood of the town.

In addition to the two churches and the chapel above mentioned, there are in Portsmouth an Unitarian chapel, founded as far back as 1719, two Independent chapels, a Baptist, and one Wesleyan chapel. The town is far less favoured with charitable endowments than either Winchester or Southampton; but there is in St. Mary's street an Alm's-house for eight poor widows; and in Penny street a free Grammar School, founded in 1732, by Dr. Smith, a physician of the place, in which fifty boys are instructed in mathematics, writing and arithmetic. The Guildhall is a spacious building recently erected, with an area underneath for the use of the market. Till lately the Market Place and Guildhall stood in the middle of the High street, to the great inconvenience of vehicles passing up and down. The markets are held on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and a fair, known as *Free Mart*, commences annually on July the 10th, and continues fourteen days.

The town of Portsmouth contains the residence of the Lieutenant Governor, and five barracks: two for the regiments of the line, one for the Royal Artillery, one for the Royal Marines, and one for the Marine Artillery. A Philosophical Society was established in 1818, and is held in a handsome building lately erected in St. Mary's street, comprising a convenient theatre and a museum, containing more than 9,000 specimens of natural history. The town has long possessed a theatre, and a mechanics' institution was founded in 1825.

The port extends from Emsworth, nine miles to the east of the town, to the Southampton estuary on the west, and includes Langston, St. Helen's, and Portsmouth harbours. Belonging to this port there are 212 vessels employed in the timber, coal, corn, Irish provisions, fishing, and coasting trades; and being a free port, merchandize is allowed to be kept in bonding stores, free of duty, until sold or exported.

The town of *Portsea* to the north of that of Portsmouth, contains within its walls a population amounting to nearly 15,000. The fortifications extend from the

harbour on the north to the Mill Dam on the south, where the town is protected by those of Portsmouth. The gateways, Lion, and Unicorn, are noble specimens of architecture, and their entablatures, on the exterior, display in one instance a lion, and in the other an unicorn couchant.

The principal object of attraction in Portsea is the famed Dockyard, the most extensive in the kingdom, including not less than 120 acres, being somewhat more than what is situated within the Portsmouth ramparts. It has a dwarf wall along the harbour for nearly three quarters of a mile, and is enclosed on the land side by a wall fourteen feet high, which completely separates it from the town, and includes a rope house, anchor wharfs, an anchor forge, a copper sheathing foundery, and mills; block, mast, sail, and rigging, and other store houses; a grand basin into which vessels are received with all their standing and running rigging to be repaired; building slips and docks for repairing; in a word, all that is requisite for the construction, equipment, armament and repair of vessels. The great basin comprehends an area of 33,000 square yards, communicating with four dry docks. The rope house is 1,094 yards in length, more than five times that of Winchester Cathedral, and is four stories high. Here are also residences for the Port-Admiral, the Admiral-Superintendent, and other officers of the yard; a chapel, the Royal Naval College, and other buildings. The number of men employed in the Dockyard has amounted at times to 5,000. Three times has it suffered from fire. On the first occasion, July 3, 1760, just after midnight, a fire broke out in one of the principal warehouses, in which was deposited a great quantity of turpentine and other inflammable articles, and which speedily extended itself to the adjoining sheds, which were destroyed. According to the general opinion at that time, the accident was caused by lightning. Ten years afterwards a fire broke out in the rope house, and caused great damage, but the cause was never ascertained. On the third occasion the fire was caused by

an incendiary, named James Atkins, better known as "Jack the Painter," who was sometime afterwards taken, tried and condemned at Winchester, executed near the Dock-gates, and afterwards gibbeted on Block-house hard.

The Gun-wharf, without the Dock Yard, includes an area of fourteen acres, and comprises a spacious building of brick ornamented with stone, occupying three sides of a quadrangle, with an arched entrance, in the centre of the fourth side and surmounted by a lofty tower and cupola. The yard contains a great number of guns and gun carriages, and an immense quantity of ordnance stores. On the right of the entrance is the armoury with 25,000 stand of small arms, and on the opposite are the offices of the royal engineers with stores adjoining, and a large depot of ammunition.

The parish church of Portsea is situated in the hamlet of Kingston, at the distance of nearly two miles from the town. It is an ancient structure, exhibiting specimens of the early perpendicular style, and is supposed to be one of the many churches erected by the celebrated William of Wykeham. The living is a vicarage of the annual value of £700, in the patronage of the warden and fellows of Winchester College the impropiators of the great tythes. There are in the town the episcopal chapels of St. George, St. John, and the Holy Trinity. The first situated near the entrance of the town from Portsmouth, was erected by subscription, on land given for the purpose by the corporation, in 1753. The building is of brick, in the Venetian style, and is capable of affording accommodation to 1,200 persons. The living is a perpetual curacy in the gift of the vicar, of the annual value of £45, according to the Parliamentary Returns. St. John's is a district church, and contains 1,500 sittings, and was erected by subscription in 1789. The exterior is of brickwork in the Grecian style, having over the north entrance a lofty tower. The internal arrangements are greatly admired; the altar is placed in a semicircular recess, separated from the body of the

chapel by a screen of fluted Corinthian columns, and the ceiling is highly decorated. The living is a perpetual curacy, the proprietors of the pews being the patrons, and is of the annual value of £141. Holy Trinity, a recent erection, is a neat structure in the later English style, with a campanile turret, and contains 1,200 sittings, of which nearly two-thirds are free. There are also in the town two chapels for Independents, one of which affords accommodation for 2000 persons, two Baptist chapels, a Catholic chapel, a Wesleyan chapel, and a Jews synagogue. The principal charitable institution in the town is the Beneficial Society, where 160 poor children are educated. It is partly supported by three endowments, namely, from E. Crofts, esq. 1789, E. Wilmot, esq. 1805, and Major E. Vavasour, 1808, producing together £68, the remainder being made up by voluntary subscriptions.

The suburb, or rather town, of Landport to the east of Portsea, was till a very recent date known as Half-way Houses, from there being about midway between the buildings on Portsmouth Common, now Portsea, and the parish church, a public house, standing on the roadside, called the Half-way House, which name was subsequently applied to the neighbourhood. The district church of All Saints, erected in 1827, at the expense of £12,000, is an elegant edifice in the later English style, with a splendid west front, surmounted by a campanile tower. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of the vicar of Portsea, and is of the annual value of £160. In 1840, another district church, in the Norman style was erected in the hamlet of Milton, besides which there are in this portion of the borough eight chapels for various denominations of dissenters. At Gatcombe there was formerly a cell belonging to the priory of Southwick, of which there were till within a few years some remains.

Southsea, with its elegant villas, terraces, &c. is situated to the south of Landport, and the east of Portsmouth. It first attracted attention as a watering place

towards the close of the last war with France, and has for the last forty years been rapidly on the increase. Fronting the ramparts of Portsmouth, but at a considerable distance from them are five terraces, bearing the names of Hampshire, Landport, King's, Jubilee, and Bellevue, and on the beach there is an extensive bathing establishment, known as the King's Rooms, which in addition to baths of various kinds, contains a promenade room 45 feet long, 35 feet wide, and attached to which there are other rooms overlooking the sea. The district church, situated near Landport terrace, is a handsome and spacious structure in the early English style, erected in 1822, at the expense of £17,000. It is ninety-four feet in length and sixty in breadth. Its exterior is of Bath stone, highly ornamented with niches and decorated pinnacles, those at the angles of the building being eighty feet in height. Above the altar there is a painting illustrative of the shipwreck at Malta, of St. Paul. The galleries, calculated to hold 900 persons, are free sittings, but the pews below are let, and form a portion of the income of the incumbent, returned at £316.

Southsea Castle, situated on the shore about one mile south-east of Portsmouth, was erected by Henry VIII. and in it Edward VI. during his tour through the western counties, rested one night. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth the pay of the captain of the garrison was 2s. per day, the under captain 13d, one porter 8d, and the other 6d; the master gunner 8d, and the remaining fourteen gunners and eleven soldiers 6d. per day. The taking of the castle by the adherents of the Long Parliament, in 1642, is thus related in the *Parliamentary Chronicle* of that date:—"On Saturday, September 3, in the night, the parliament forces took *Sousey Castle*, which lyes a mile from the town, upon the sea sands. The captain of the castle's name is Challiner, who on Saturday had been to Portsmouth, and on the evening went home to the castle, and his soldiers took horseloads of provisions, biscuits, meal and other necessaries for them. They reported that he had more drink in his head than befited

such a time and service, and the townsmen gave out that he had been bribed with money to yield up the castle ; but, 'twas false, though the first may be true. Yet was that any furtherance to the taking of it, for it was thus :—Here were about eighty musqueteers and others that came that night to the walls of the castle, and under their ordnance, and had with them a very good engineer and thirty-five scaling ladders ; and the whole company of the castle were but twelve officers, or commanders, who all were not able to deal with ours in such a disadvantage ; whereof ours, having suddenly and silently scaled the walls, called unto them and advised them what to do, shewing the advantage they had over them, and therefore their danger if they resisted ; who, seeing the same, immediately yielded the castle to us, whereof our triumph in taking it was plainly heard at two o'clock in the morning into the town : and as soon as they were masters of the castle they discharged two pieces of the castle ordnance against the town. The town of Portsmouth capitulated the next day." In the reign of Charles II. the original blockhouse was surrounded by a star fort, and was frequently used as a state prison, and in the last year of that of George II. a great portion of the castle was accidentally blown up by gunpowder. In 1814 the castle was completely reformed and rendered a modern fortress, by being surrounded by bomb-proof batteries, a covert way, moats, glacis, &c. By a recent order it is to be converted into a prison for military offenders.

Further to the south-east are two small ports, known as Lump's and Eastney, and at the entrance of Langston harbour one of larger size, and considered impregnable called Cumberland Port. The works were commenced in 1744 but were not completed till 1820. It has barrack room for three thousand men, and on its ramparts 100 pieces of artillery may be mounted.

Portsmouth harbour, both in size and safety, stands superior to any other in the kingdom. Secure from every storm, the largest ships in the navy may here enter

at every tide, while its bottom affords an excellent anchorage. In addition to the excellent fortifications by which it is surrounded, which totally preclude an assault by sea, it is so situated that hardly any wind can blow to endanger the shipping, so effectually is it protected by the position of the surrounding lands. The famed roadstead of Spithead which lies to the south-west of the harbour, takes its name from a sand bank called the Spit, about three miles in length, but not perceptible above water. This bank is occasioned by the rapid flowing of the tide out of Portsmouth harbour (into which it runs during seven hours, and goes out in five) causing a powerful current, that by a projection of land at Block-house fort, is turned to the south-east, and in that course forms a deep channel, and leaves on the side of it the bank, which as the current expands, becomes less and less, until at length it terminates at Spithead. To the west of Spithead is another roadstead, called the *Motherbank*, where the mercantile navy remain when weather bound. To the eastward, about four miles from Southsea Castle, is St. Helen's roadstead, so called from its being off a village of that name in the Isle of Wight.

Portsea island, which is nearly sixteen miles in circumference, comprises the parishes of Portsea, Portsmouth, a small portion of the parish of Wymering, and an extra-parochial place known as the Great Salterns. The communication with the main land is by two bridges, secured by a triple entrenchment; the one for the entrance, the other for the departure of passengers. It is stated that the island was given to the New Monastery at Winchester by Queen Elfrida, in the tenth century, but it is probable that it was only its tythe, as the manors of Fratton, Buckland, Copnor, and Appledene, supposed to be the present Kingston, are mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to several lay proprietors.

The surface of the island is in general flat, and was probably at some period covered by the ocean. A con-

siderable portion of it is occupied by market gardens, from which spring crops of vegetables are obtained much earlier than in most other parts of the kingdom, and which are celebrated for their produce of brocoli, single heads of which frequently attain the weight of 25 lbs. Notwithstanding its low situation, and crowded state of its towns it appears to be remarkably healthy, and the number of deaths to be below full one-third in proportionate numbers to what they are in many other places.

SKETCH XXX.

GOSPORT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Alverstoke	4010	19023	13510
Rowner	650	1516	145

GOSPORT, situated on the northern side of Portsmouth harbour and immediately opposite that town, was three centuries ago, according to Leland, no other than "a small fisher village," though it now possesses a market, is strongly fortified, and contains about 9,000 inhabitants. Tradition asserts that its name is a corruption of "*God's Port*," a name conferred on the place in consequence of King Stephen having landed here in 1144, after encountering a tremendous storm, and escaping shipwreck, on his return from Normandy; but the late Mr. Mudie intimates that the original appellation may have been *Gorse port*, derived from the quantity of gorse or furze by which this shore was at that time overrun.

In old writings it is styled a borough, though it has never possessed a body corporate, whilst the appointment of constables, ale-tasters, and other manorial officers is vested in the Bishop of Winchester, as lord of the manor of Alverstoke, of which parish Gosport forms a part. By a charter granted to Portsmouth by Charles II. the boundaries of that borough were extended so as to comprise the town of Gosport, but at the Revolution this charter was set aside for one previously granted to the town by Charles I.

Gosport owes its present importance to its contiguity to Portsmouth. Towards the close of the last century a line of regular fortifications for the protection of the town, and more especially for that of the shipping, naval arsenal, and stores, was constructed on the land side. Within the walls, to the north-east of the town, is the Royal Clarence Victualling Yard, for the supply of the Royal Navy. It contains an extensive brewery and cooperage, formerly known as Weoval's store-houses of immense dimensions, for wine, spirits, provisions, and clothing; mills for grinding the flour, and bake-houses for preparing the biscuits for the use of the navy. The yard, which is very extensive and contains several good and handsome houses for its principal officers, has on its eastern front convenient quays, adjoining the harbour, where vessels of considerable burthen can take in their stores.

The church, situated to the south-west of the town, was erected in the reign of William III. as a chapel of ease to the mother church at Alverstoke. The original building was enlarged in 1745, and again in 1830, at the expense of nearly £4,000. It is now spacious, and as regards its internal appearance a chaste and handsome edifice of the Ionic order, and is a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of the rector of Alverstoke, of the annual value of £228, arising in part from the rent of a small freehold farm comprising 70 acres, with which it was endowed in 1743. At Forton, which may be considered a portion of Gosport, though without the fortifications, there is a district church, recently erected, with considerable taste, dedicated to St. John, and which is justly famed for its excellent choral service. The living is also a perpetual curacy in the patronage of the rector of Alverstoke, and is returned at the annual value of £114. There is also in the town chapels belonging to the Catholics, the Independents, Scotch Presbyterians, and Wesleyans.

The town consists of three principal streets, intersected by others at right angles, but presents no striking objects.

It is connected with Portsmouth by a floating bridge which crosses the mouth of the harbour every quarter of an hour. The Railway Terminus is at Forton, without the fortifications. The markets are held on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and the two annual fairs on May 4, and October 10.

At Forton there was formerly a large prison, where captives of war of various nations were confined, but which was taken down some years since. Here are also an extensive range of buildings, originally erected as a military hospital, now used as a barracks for soldiers. Near Forton Lake, and on the shore of the harbour, are the ruins of an ancient fortification called Barrow, or Borrough Castle, traditionally ascribed to King Stephen.

About a mile to the south east of the town, on a point of land separated from it by a saltwater lake, over which a bridge has lately been erected, we have the Royal Hospital of Haslar, for the reception of sick and wounded seamen—commenced in 1746, and completed in 1762. The building is four stories high and consists of a centre 576 feet long, and two wings 253 feet each. On the pediment, in the centre of the front, are boldly sculptured the royal arms, with the figures of Navigation and Commerce (the former pouring balm upon the wounds of a sailor), and other appropriate ornaments. The wards are uniform, sixty feet long and twenty-four feet broad, each containing accommodation for twenty patients, with apartments for nurses, &c. Several other buildings are within the walls for the use of the governor, lieutenants, and other officers and servants belonging to the establishment; and also a chapel seventy-two feet in length and thirty-six broad. In the east wing there is a library and museum for the medical officers of the establishment, to whom also lectures are delivered by an officer appointed for that purpose. An airing ground of thirty-three acres, enclosed with a wall, is attached, that has a separate enclosure for the use of lunatic patients. The wards of the hospital are 114 in

number, and afford accommodation to 2,000 patients. To the east of the hospital, and overlooking and commanding the entrance of Portsmouth harbour, there is a strong fort known as Blockhouse, regularly fortified with bastions and moat, and so situated that any vessels approaching by the only practical channel into the harbour, must come directly in front of a long line of ordnance, placed securely within bomb-proof casements, and nearly level with the surface of the water. About three quarters of a mile to the south-west is Fort Monkton, formerly called Gilkicker point, another strong fortification, defended by thirty-two pieces of heavy ordnance, which, with a strong redoubt to the west, effectually secures this part of the coast.

The village and church of Alverstoke is situated about two miles to the west of Gosport. From an entry in the register of John de Pontissera, preserved among the episcopal archives of Winchester, it appears that the manors of Alverstoke, Exton, and Woodhay were bestowed on the cathedral church of St. Swithin, at Winchester, by a lady of the name of Alwara, (hence the present name of the parish) for the soul of her husband Leowin. In the Domesday Book the manor of Alverstoke is mentioned as being held by the bishop for the use of his monks, as containing fifteen ploughlands occupied by forty-eight villagers, and woods which furnished two hogs, and as being worth £6. An ancient document states that the limits of the manor extended over the shore between high and low water mark, and over the sea as far as a man can ride on a white horse at the low water time and overreach with his lance,

Bishop Lowth in his life of William of Wykeham states that Henry de Blois gave the church of Alverstoke to his newly founded hospital of St. Cross, but this is a mistake, as the living has always been in the patronage of the bishop. About the year 1260, an agreement was entered into between the prior of Winchester Cathedral and the men of Alverstoke, by which a charter

containing divers privileges, was granted to the latter. They and their posterity were to be free for ever from fining or being taxed, and from *chirche set* and *kirke sida fe*, from having their swine taken for pannage, or sums of money for the king's service in war or urgent occasions, to be free from the courts of the hundred, save only within Alverstoke, and to have all their lands to have, and to hold to them and their heirs, and the privilege of making their wills, and of freely disposing of their goods and children in consideration that they and their successors pay to the church of St. Swithin at Winchester, four-pence for every acre with the apurtenances, for all the lands of the manor, except certain portions at Forton, Brockhurst, Bury, and Stoke, which were at the rate of six-pence, and upon the death of a former proprietor, his successor to pay for his holding so much as had been paid yearly. They were also required to choose yearly three of the most efficient and discreet men among them whom they should present, out of which one was to be selected by the prior's steward as the borough reeve or bailiff for the year. The original document is still in existence, and an impression of the seal affixed to it was exhibited at the recent meeting of the Archæological Institute at Winchester, the matrix, it was stated, was in 1606 in the possession of one of the tenants of the manor. The impression is about two inches and a half in diameter, and in the centre is represented, in high relief, an episcopal figure, probably intended for St. Swithin, having a low mitre on the head, and holding in the right hand a white headed crosier or pastoral staff, and in the left hand a book, the cover of which is studded with round bosses. Around the edge is this inscription in capital letters *Sigill. comune hominum prioris Sti. Swithin de Alwoarstoke*. The common seal of the men of Alverstoke. The church, with the exception of the tower and chancel, has recently been rebuilt in the style of the fourteenth century. The tythes have been commuted at £1250, in addition to which there is a glebe of the annual value of £75.

The fashionable watering place of *Anglesea* is situated on the shore at a short distance to the east of the village. It consists principally of a line of houses fronting the water, and situated on an elevated terrace, commanding an uninterrupted view of the Isle of Wight, from one extremity to the other. A church, dedicated to St. Mark has been erected, and is endowed with the pew rents. The hamlets of Brockhurst, and Elston are situated in the northern part of the parish, and in the latter is a chapel endowed with £50 out of the rectorial tythes.

The parish of *Rowner* which adjoins that of Alverstoke on the north is called *Ruemore* in the Domesday Book, which states that it was occupied by ten villagers and four borderers, contained four plough-lands, and woods which furnished four hogs, was worth 70s, and was held by William de Maldoit. The church is a small but ancient edifice, and the living, which is a rectory in the gift of the Rev. C. Brune, is of the annual value of £400.

SKETCH XXXI.

THE ISLE OF WIGHT—INTRODUCTION.

Of all the southern Isles she holds the highest place,
And ever more hath been great'st in Britain's grace;
For none of her account, so neere her bosom stand
Twixt Penwith's furthest point, and Goodwin's queachy sand.

MICHAEL DRAYTON.

THE derivation of the name, and the early history of this island, are involved in obscurity. The former has afforded scope for etymological conjectures among the learned; some contending that the term Wight is derived from the British word *Guith*, a breach or division, alluding to the supposed separation of this island from the main land; and others, from the Latin appellation *Victis*, a word signifying a bar or bolt, in allusion to the steep and projecting rocks by which the coast is in many parts defended.

It has also been matter of controversy whether the island was not originally connected with the main land; from which it was separated by the violence of the ocean, and whether it is not the place called *Ictus* by the Roman writer Diodorus Siculus, to which he affirms, the Britons carried their tin over at the recess of the tide, in order to export it to the opposite coasts of Gaul, a theory which is supported by Sir Richard Worsley, in his History of the Isle of Wight, who states that a hard gravelly beach extends a great way across from the isle towards the coast of Hampshire, near Lymington; and

Mr. Whittaker, who, in his history of Manchester, observes that the Isle of Wight was during the reigns of the Roman Emperor Augustus, actually a part of the main land, disjoined from it only by the tide, and united to it always at the ebb. On the same side is the Rev. W. Gilpin, who thus states his opinion on the subject. "As we entered the Lynnington river, we found a fresh proof of the probability of the ancient union between *Victis* and the main. The tide was gone, and had left vast stretches of ooze along the deserted shores. Here we saw lying on the right a huge stump of a tree, which our boatman informed us had been dragged out of the water; he assured us also that the roots of oaks and other trees were often found in these banks of mud, which seems still more to strengthen the opinion that all this part of the coast, now covered by the tide, had once been forest land." These speculations receive support from a paper read by H. Hatcher, esq. of Salisbury, at the recent meeting of the Archæological Association at Winchester, to the effect that one of the Roman roads which intersected the county extended to Lepe, the nearest point to the Isle of Wight, in which direction the hard gravelly beach, mentioned by Sir Richard Worsley, extends; and which connects it with the Roman road known as Rue street in that island. If this theory be correct, it naturally follows that the Isle of Wight was, as is generally supposed, nineteen hundred years ago, the great mart for tin, and the place from which not only that article, but other British commodities, were exported to the Continent. On the other hand Borlase, in his Natural History of Cornwall, conjectures that the *Ictus* of Diodorus must have been near the coast of Cornwall, at a short distance from the tin mines, and treats the supposition as ridiculous that they would convey their articles above two hundred miles by land carriage, when they had good ports and harbours close at home; and states that *Ik*, hence the Roman term *Ictus*, is a common Cornish word denoting a cove, creek, or port of traffic, and is supported by

Polwhele, the Historian of Devon, who supposes that the real *Ictus*, is now called the Island of St. Nicholas, nearly opposite the mouth of the river Tamar.

Upon the division of England into the several kingdoms known as the Heptarchy, the Isle of Wight formed a portion of that of Wessex. About a century afterwards, namely, 761, the island was subdued by Wulpher, King of Mercia, who united it to the kingdom of Sussex, but he did not long retain the supremacy, as, in 674, it was seized by Ceadwalla, King of Wessex, as his rightful inheritance, and who having recently embraced the Christian faith, determined to root out the inhabitants of the island, because they still adhered to Paganism. The Venerable Bede states that St. Wilfred, Bishop of the South Saxons, prevailed upon him to make use of less sanguinary measures, and to spare the lives of those who would receive baptism, to which the majority submitted.

William the Conqueror granted the lordship of the island to his kinsman, William Fitz Osborne, "to be held by him as freely as he himself held the realm of England." Fitz Osborne is reported to have assumed a more absolute authority over his dependants than was exercised by William himself over his English subjects, ejecting indiscriminately all the original possessors, and granting their lands to his followers. In accordance with the fashion of the age, he was a benefactor to the church, founding the Priory of Carisbrooke, which, with other churches in this Island, he granted to the Abbey of Lyra, in Normandy, founded also by him. Being slain in battle, in 1070, he was succeeded in his English possessions by his youngest son, Roger, Earl of Hereford, who having engaged in a conspiracy to dethrone the Conqueror, was arrested and convicted of treason, was sentenced to perpetual imprisonment, and the Isle of Wight with other lands were escheated to the crown. Henry I. granted the lordship of the Isle, to Richard de Redvers, Earl of Devon, in whose family it continued till the year 1203, when it was purchased

by King Edward I. of the then possessor, Isabella de Fortibus, who signed the contract on her death-bed, for 6,000 marks. Previous to this period from the Norman Conquest, the Island had been, in a great measure, detached from the county, and even from the rest of the kingdom; being under the jurisdiction of its own lords, from whom the boroughs of Newport and Yarmouth derived their earliest charters.

Edward I. rendered the island an integral portion of the realm of England, and made it a part of the county of Southampton. Instead of re-granting the government of this island to an individual, invested with absolute power, a warden was appointed, whose power was revocable at the royal pleasure, a title which, in the reign of Edward VI. was changed to Captain General, and still more recently to that of Governor. The royal manors were, for several centuries, either held by the crown, or granted, during the life of some member of the House of Plantagenet, or favourite of the sovereign, till the reign of Henry VIII. when they were let on a lease of lives to Sir Reginald Bray, from whom they have descended into the hands of a variety of possessors, and many of them sold off. It is stated by some historians, that Henry VI. crowned with his own hand, Henry Beauchamp, Duke of Warwick, King of the Isle of Wight, but who, at the time, does not appear to have possessed a single manor, or the least power, within it.

During the reign of Edward III. the island was several times threatened with invasion by the French, and proper preparations were made to receive them on their landing. The warden was authorised by the King to array the men at arms, hoblers (soldiers lightly armed and mounted on small horses or hobbies), and bowmen; to raise new forces, if those already arrayed were found insufficient; and to provide them with arms and to marshal them. He was empowered to take men, who were to be paid by the king, from the county of Southampton, and was likewise to summon all absentees, who

were bound by their tenures to defend Carisbrooke Castle, or the Island; and to order them to return with their families within a limited time, under penalty of forfeiting their lands, tenements, goods, and chattles, to the king's use. The king, in order to induce parties to remain on the island, granted divers privileges and immunities to the inhabitants, amongst which they were not to be charged with the aid granted to the king; and no inhabitant of the island could be compelled to serve on any jury or inquest out of it. In 1373, the first year of the reign of Richard II. the French effected a landing, and, after overrunning the open country, laid siege to Carisbrooke Castle which was bravely defended by Sir Hugh Tyrrel.

During the siege, a party of the enemy were surprised and cut to pieces, in a narrow pass still known as Deadmen's Lane, in the immediate neighbourhood of the castle, and the tumulus in which the dead bodies were deposited, was long known as Noddies Hill, now Node-Hill, and built upon, and forming part of the borough of Newport. Here we may mention that Mr. John Dennett, of Carisbrooke, exhibited at the recent meeting of the Archæological Association, a handsome spur, which was dug up not long since in Deadman's Lane, and which was pronounced by competent judges upon the subject, to be of the fourteenth century, and of Spanish manufacture; and, it is thought, probably belonged to some Spanish cavalier, who sought to revenge on England the interference of the Black Prince in the succession to the throne of Castile. The French, considering the reduction of the castle a hopeless task, withdrew to their ships; not, however, before they had levied a contribution of a thousand marks, and obliged the inhabitants to promise not to resist them should they revisit the island within a year, and had destroyed the towns of Franchville (now Newtown), and Yarmouth.

In the reign of Henry V. the French made another hostile visit to the island and boasted that they intended to keep their Christmas there; but, as a portion of their

body were driving cattle towards their ships, they were suddenly attacked and defeated by the natives, and the remainder immediately vacated the island. Within a few years another descent was made on the island, which was attended by no better success.

In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Henry VIII, a French fleet, of 200 sail, appeared off Portsmouth : and the admiral, Annebout, finding he could not induce the English fleet, which was less numerous than his own, to save battle, landed, with two thousand men, in the Isle of Wight, with the intent to fortify and keep possession of it ; but that being considered impracticable, he allowed his men to plunder and burn the villages, but they were suddenly attacked and driven to their ships by the captain of the island, Richard Worsley, with the loss of their commanding officer and many of his men. Since that period the tranquility of the island has not been disturbed by foreign invasion ; and, to prevent a recurrence, forts were erected at several points of the island, whilst every parish was required to provide one piece of brass ordnance, which in most cases was kept in the church.

At the commencement of the disputes between Charles I. and the Long Parliament, the Earl of Portland, a staunch Royalist, was governor of the island. The Parliament signified its desire that the earl should be removed, alleging among other reasons, his lordship's inclination to Popery. This charge was, however, answered by a memorial, signed by the Deputy-Lieutenants and Justices of the Peace, the Mayors and Corporations of Newport, Newtown, and Yarmouth, and many other of the principal inhabitants, which among other matters, states that there was not one professed Papist nor any one Popishly inclined in the whole island, and that his lordship had shown his pious affection to the Reformed Religion by being the principal benefactor to a constant weekly lecture at Newport.

This memorial did not have its desired effect, and Charles submitted to the dictation of those who were

ultimately to prove his masters, recalled his faithful servant, and appointed the Earl of Pembroke as his successor, but at the same time confided the custody of Carisbrooke Castle to Colonel Brett. This did not satisfy his opponents, and Moses Read, the mayor of Newport, having represented to Parliament that the safety of the Isle was endangered while the Countess of Portland and Colonel Brett were suffered to retain possession of the castle, he was authorised to adopt any measures he might think necessary for securing the island; upon which, being assisted by Harby, curate of Newport, he marched the new raised militia, and 400 naval auxiliaries, against the castle, the garrison of which consisted of no more than thirty men. It is stated by Sir Richard Worsley, that, upon the approach of the beleaguers, the Countess of Portland, with the magnanimity of a Roman matron, rushed to the platform, with a match in her hand, vowing she would fire the first cannon herself, and defend the castle to the utmost extremity, unless honourable terms were granted, which after some negotiations, these were obtained, and the castle was surrendered.

In the month of November, 1647, Charles was brought as a captive to the island and lodged in Carisbrooke castle. For a time the king received every respect and attention, was treated rather as a guest than a captive, and allowed the freedom of the island, but this being displeasing to the ruling powers; his majesty was confined to the castle, whilst several of his personal friends and servants were permitted no longer to attend upon him.

Soon after the king's arrival at the castle, schemes were set on foot for his liberation, in which several gentlemen of family in the island voluntarily embarked. Among other schemes Firebrace proposed his getting out of the chamber window, but, fearing the bars might render the passage too narrow, he proposed cutting them with a saw, but the king, fearing a discovery, commanded him to prepare all things else for his departure,

being confident he could get through the window, having tried with his head—judging that where the head could pass the body would easily follow. Firebrace imparted the design to Mr. Edward Worsley, of the ancient family of that name, and afterwards knighted for his services on this occasion ; Mr. Richard Osborne, a gentleman appointed by the Parliament to attend the king, and Mr. John Newland, of Newport ; who all proved themselves worthy of the confidence reposed in them. The plan agreed upon was as follows :—At the time appointed Firebrace was to throw something up against the window of the king's chamber, as a signal that all was clear, upon which the king was to let himself down by a rope, and to be conducted by Firebrace, under favour of the darkness, across the court to the main wall of the castle, by which he was to descend into the ditch by means of another cord, and, passing the counterscarp, would be met by Worsley and Osborne, already mounted, having another horse for the king, whilst Newland remained at the sea side with a large boat, ready to convey his majesty wherever he should think fit. The preparations being completed, Firebrace from below gave the expected signal, upon which the King attempted to get out of the window, but found when it was too late, that he was wrong in his calculation ; for although he found an easy passage for his head, he stuck fast between the breast and shoulders, without the power of advancing or returning. Firebrace heard him groan, without being able to afford him the least assistance ; and the king having at length released himself from the window, placed a candle in it as an intimation that his attempt was frustrated, which Firebrace immediately communicated to Worsley and Osborne, who escaped detection, or even suspicion. A second attempt was made sometime afterwards by Worsley and Osborne, when the latter unfortunately admitted Major Rolfe, an officer of the castle, into the secret, by whom it was betrayed, and who, it is said, intended to kill the king as he came through the win-

dow. On this occasion the king had removed the bar which had impeded his progress on the former occasion, but perceiving more persons below than he expected, and suspecting his intentions were discovered, shut his window and returned to his bed. Worsley and Osborne had also a narrow escape, as a party of musqueteers had been planted in the direction of the sea coast, and who fired upon them, but without effect.

In September, 1648, the House of Commons revived their negotiations with the captive monarch, and commissioners were sent to Newport nominally to settle terms on a satisfactory basis, if possible, but in reality to compel the King to yield to their demands. The place selected for deliberation was the Guildhall, and his Majesty having given his word not to leave the island during the treaty, nor for twenty days afterwards, was so far released as to be a prisoner on his parole, and allowed the attendance of such of his friends and servants as had not borne arms against the Parliament. The Commissioners, observes Dr. Lingard, were permitted to argue, to advise, to entreat; but they had no power to concede: their instructions bound them to insist on the King's consent to every proposition which had been submitted to his consideration at Hampton Court." Charles, although he gave way on several points, remained inflexible with regard to four others; and after a protracted negotiation of ten weeks, the Commissioners returned to London. On the following day he was privately informed that a military force had been landed on the island for the purpose of removing him elsewhere, his friends conjured him to save his life by an immediate escape, but the king objected, stating that he was bound on his honour to remain twenty days after his treaty. At five o'clock the next morning he was awakened by a message, informing him that he must prepare to depart, under the surveillance of Lieutenant-Colonel Cobbett, being exactly two months previous to his execution at Whitehall.

The Isle of Wight is said not only to contain, within a narrow compass, all the pleasing and picturesque

features of Great Britain, but specimens of all the beauties and variety of scenery of the whole of Europe. Here we have, in rapid succession, hill and dale, the swelling promontory and the lowly glen ; the antique church that has resisted the storms of eight hundred years, and the fashionable watering place studded with all the fantastic features of the age ; the gently shelving shore of Ryde, the rugged rocks of the Needles, the impending cliffs of Freshwater, the romantic scenery of the Undercliff, and the chines of the south or back of the island. Its soil has for ages been famed for its fertility ; the quantity of grain raised here having been, some years since, computed at seven times the quantity necessary for its inhabitants.

The form of the island is that of an irregular lozenge, and is twenty-three miles in length from the Foreland on the east, to the Needle Cliff on the west, and thirteen miles in breadth from West Cowes on the north to St. Catherine's Point on the south. Its circumference is about 57 miles, and its area 89,810 acres, or nearly 136 square miles, which is thirteen square miles less than the county of Rutland. Its surface, for the most part, is at a great elevation above the sea, and a range of high chalk downs extends with some interruptions from the eastern to the western extremity.

All the rivers rise at the back or southern part of the island, and have a northerly direction, and previous to their junction with the ocean form spacious estuaries. The principal river is the Medina, the course of which is direct north, through the centre of the island, which is divided into two nearly equal parts, and falls into the Solent at Cowes.

For civil purposes the island is divided into the liberties of West Medina and East Medina, the former comprising sixteen and the latter fourteen parishes, and for ecclesiastical purposes, into two rural deaneries, East and West Medina, and contains 16 rectories, 9 vicarages, and 19 chapelries.

SKETCH XXXII.

ISLE OF WIGHT.—WEST MEDINA.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Newport - - - -	80	22292	3858
Carisbrooke - - -	8889	9171	5613
St. Nicholas - - -	410	804	275
Northwood - - - -	4270	18135	5147
Calbourne - - - -	5090	3176	750
Shalfleet - - - -	5480	4456	1218
Yarmouth - - - -	50	1135	567
Thorley - - - -	1370	1833	163
Freshwater - - - -	4760	4974	1299
Brook - - - -	750	947	150
Mottistoun - - - -	1070	1438	176
Brixton - - - -	2700	3668	710
Shorwell - - - -	4060	4115	714
Chale - - - -	1880	2228	610
Kingston - - - -	650	971	73
Gatecombe - - - -	1310	2085	306

THE compact market town and borough of Newport, the capital of the Isle of Wight, is pleasantly situated on the western bank of the Medina river, at the distance of five miles from the sea. The town was of very little importance, and probably its site was unoccupied till the reign of Henry II, when its port was established by one of the Lords of the Isle, and derived from that circumstances the name of the New Port. It received its first charter from Richard de Redvers, Earl of Devon and Lord of the Island, which was confirmed by his descendant the Countess Isabella de Fortibus, who styles

it her 'New Borough of Medina.' Additional charters were obtained from Edward IV. Henry VII. and Edward VI.; and in the first year of the reign of James I. Newport was incorporated, when its bailiff was honoured by the title of mayor. The former grants were confirmed and extended by Charles II. by whose charter the government of the town was vested in a mayor, recorder, ten aldermen, and twelve capital burgesses. By the Municipal Act the corporation consists of a mayor, six aldermen, and eighteen councillors, and the borough is divided into two wards.

Newport sent representatives to the Parliament of the twenty-third of Edward I. but did not again make a return till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a privilege which has not received any interruption. Prior to the passing of the Reform Act, the elective franchise was confined to the corporation, but, by that act, the borough consists not merely of the town and parish of Newport, but also of portions of the parishes of Carisbrooke, Northwood and Whippingham, and parts of East and West Cowes. There is no historical event connected with the place except that remarkable conference, or treaty, which took place between the commissioners appointed by the Long Parliament and Charles I. then in captivity. The principal, and most ancient, edifice in the town is the parish church, supposed to have been erected toward the close of the twelfth century, and dedicated to the popular saint of that period, Thomas à Becket. At the time of its erection an agreement was entered into, between the inhabitants of Newport and the Prior and Convent of Carisbrooke, to the effect that the former should pay to the latter the annual sum of two marks, in consideration of which the convent should send two of their body to serve the church of Newport; from which circumstance the tradition arose that Carisbrooke sold its market to Newport, which the former never possessed, and the latter not till fifty years afterwards. The church is a spacious but low fabric with three aisles, separated from each other by pointed arches, and has an embattled tower to the west. The

architecture is of different periods, and various mechanical instruments, that are sculptured on the south wall, as hammers, shears, &c. renders the opinion probable that part of the expences of building were defrayed by subscriptions of the mechanics of the town. The pulpit is of wainscot oak, ornamented with figures curiously carved on the pannels in alto relievo, representing the Cardinal Virtues and the Liberal Arts. In this church was buried Elizabeth, the second daughter of Charles I. who died in 1650, a prisoner at Carisbrooke, at the age of fifteen. Her remains, enclosed in a leaden coffin, were discovered in a vault under the chancel in 1793. The living is a chapelry annexed to the vicarage of Carisbrooke, but no return is made in the *Liber Ecclesiasticus* of its annual value; it being probably included in that of the mother church. The chief emolument arises from a rate, payable by the inhabitants, who formerly were allowed the privilege of choosing their own minister. By several entries in the Corporation books, the allowance to him appears to have varied, and been in fact discretionary till 1653, when a rate was first established for his support. There are within the town a newly erected church dedicated to St. John, locally situated in the parish of Carisbrooke, a Roman Catholic chapel, and six Dissenting chapels for different congregations of Independents, Wesleyans, Baptists and Unitarians.

The Guildhall is a large and elegant structure of the Ionic order, standing in the centre of the town. A magnificent colonnade forms the principal front to the west, whilst the area of the base forms a spacious and elegantly arranged market-place. Over it is the council-chamber and other municipal offices. It is here that the county magistrates hold their weekly meetings, and by adjournment, the quarter sessions of the county, also a *Curia Militum*, or Knight's Court, a curious relic of the olden time, in which the governor's deputy or steward presides; the court having jurisdiction in all civil matters, where less than the value of 40s. is involved, in every part of the island, with the exception

of the borough of Newport. The founder of this feudal court is supposed to have been William Fitz Osborne, to whom William the Conqueror granted the sovereignty of the Island; and the judges who decide, without a jury, are all such as hold a knight-fee from the lord. The free school is a plain stone building, erected in the reign of James I. and in the principal room, fifty feet long, was the place where Charles I. met the Parliamentary Commissioners, as above alluded to. Its founder was Lord Chief Justice Fleming, but it has received subsequent endowments and benefactions; and the instruction prescribed is writing, grammar, and accounts, and it is free to as many poor men's children of the town, being able to read at the time of admission, as the mayor and justices should think fit. At the time of the investigation of the charities, the annual income amounted to £147. 8s. received as the rent of about thirty acres of land, and three houses, besides fines on the renewal of the leases of the houses, whilst at the same time fifteen boys were taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and the classics, free. There is also a school for the education and clothing of girls, founded in 1761, possessing an endowment of £84, which is increased by voluntary subscriptions; so that twenty poor girls are educated, clothed, and placed out at service.

Newport owes its prosperity in a great measure to its central situation, and its possessing the principal market of the Island. It is more regularly laid out than is the case with most of our English towns. Three principal streets extend from east to west, and are crossed at right angles by three others from north to south, at the intersection of which there were formerly spacious squares, or market places, now much encroached upon. The houses, built of brick, are in general neat and convenient, without any pretensions to grandeur or elegance. The tide flows up to its quay, where colliers, and other small vessels can unload.

The parish of *Carisbrooke*, of which Newport once formed part, was, at the period of the Norman Conquest, included in the manor of Bowcombe, now the name of

a hamlet. The village is situated about a mile to the south-west of Newport, on a small stream, tributary to the Medina. The church is an ancient structure, erected soon after the Norman Conquest, by William Fitz Osborne, who founded and endowed the adjoining priory, which was given by him to the Abbey of Lyra, in Normandy, of which he was also the founder. At the suppression of the Alien Priories, that of Carisbrooke, with its revenues, which included the impropriation of the great tythes of Carisbrooke, Newport, Northwood, Shorwell, Godshill and Freshwater, were granted first to the Abbey of Mont Grace in Yorkshire, and afterwards to the monastery of Shene in Surrey. In the reign of Henry VIII. the site of the priory, and its tythes, were granted upon lease to Sir James Worsley, from whose family they passed to Sir James Walsingham, Secretary to Queen Elizabeth, who not only destroyed the monastic offices, but induced the inhabitants to allow the chancel and north aisle of the church to be pulled down, for which he paid them the sum of 100 marks; yet in spite of this mutilation, it is one of the most commanding and interesting edifices within the Island. The living is the most wealthy vicarage in the county or diocese, appearing in the Parliamentary returns of the annual value of £1,123, and is in the patronage of Queen's College, Oxford.

To the south of the village, seated on a lofty eminence, are the romantic and picturesque remains of its old Norman castle, occupying with its outworks about twenty acres of ground. A Roman, and even a British foundation is claimed for it, and it is probable that its site was never overlooked by those to whom the defence of the Island was intrusted. The earliest historical notice of it occurs in the Saxon Annals, in which it is stated that it was besieged and taken by Cerdic, in 530, who bestowed the government of the Island on his nephews Stuft and Withgar, the latter of whom rebuilt the castle. Allowing that the summit of the hill was crowned by a Saxon fort at the period of the Norman Conquest, still the greater portion of the present fabric

is of Norman construction, erected between 1066 and 1086. Various alterations have subsequently been made, especially in the reign of Elizabeth, when the whole of the original works were surrounded by a fortification faced with stone, encompassed by a deep moat, and defended by five bastions. The walls of the original fortress include about an acre and a half of ground, approaching in form to a rectangular parallelogram, with the angles rounded, which appear to have been rebuilt when the works were enlarged by Queen Elizabeth, as that at the south-east has the date of 1601. The entrance is on the west side, between two bastions, through a noble machicolated gateway, flanked with round towers, passing which we have the castle chapel, or parochial church of St. Nicholas, erected in the year 1738, of which I shall speak hereafter. On the opposite side are the ruins of the buildings occupied by Charles I. during his imprisonment in the castle; a small room, said to have been his bedchamber, and the window through which he attempted his escape, are pointed out. Beyond the apartments occupied by the unfortunate monarch, stood the barracks and the governor's house; and on the south-east angle, raised considerably above the other buildings, is the Keep, an irregular polygon, about sixty feet broad at the widest point, and supposed to be of Saxon construction. The ascent to it is by seventy-three steps, and on it are nine more. This spot commands a delightful and extensive prospect, not only over the greater portion of the Island, but also the New Forest to the north, and Portsmouth and its neighbourhood to the north-east. At the south-west corner of the area is a platform for cannon, made in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and near the centre of the south wall are the remains of a watch tower. The ruins of another tower, called Mountjoys, stand at the south angle of the area, the walls of which are in some places eighteen feet thick, and the top may be yet ascended by a flight of decayed steps. On the east side are the remains of two other watch towers, and in the centre, under a small building, is a well 200 feet deep, supplying

very pure water for the use of the castle. The outworks, which are about three quarters of a mile in circumference, were constructed under the direction of an Italian engineer, named Genebella, the same who was employed on the fortifications of Antwerp. In the east part of this area is the Place of Arms, a large open space of ground, surrounded by a redoubt, and was originally set apart for the training and exercising soldiers. The castle was, in the olden time, the residence of the Lords of the Isle of Wight, and still contains the official abode of the governor.

To the north of the village, but within the parish of Carisbrooke, is a wild district, known as *Parkhurst Forest*, which, in the olden time, extended to the Solent. Within its ancient limits stands the House of Industry for the whole island, which owes its foundation to a meeting of the inhabitants, assembled for the purpose of discussing the best mode of providing relief for the poor. It was proposed to consolidate the rates of the several parishes, and to erect a building for the general reception of the poor; application was made to Parliament for the necessary powers, and the design being approved, a grant was obtained from the Crown of eight acres, for the term of 999 years, at little more than a nominal rent. The building is 300 feet in length and 27 broad, and possesses accommodation for the residence and employment of nearly 700 persons. At a short distance from it is the military depôt, known as Albany Barracks, erected in 1778. Immediately adjoining, and which once formed part of the barracks, is the famed Parkhurst Prison, for the correction and reformation of juvenile offenders, and which possesses accommodation and appliances for the confinement, labour, discipline, and education of 330 prisoners.

The parish of *St. Nicholas* consists of various detached portions of land in various parts of the Island; the most valuable and populous is in the borough of Newport, and is known as Castle Hold. The chapel of Carisbrooke Castle may be considered as the parochial church, in which the mayor elect of Newport was ad-

mitted to his office by taking the prescribed oaths before the governor or his deputy. Divine service has not been performed in it for many years, but the living is returned as a vicarage in the patronage of the governor, of the annual value of £24.

The parish of *Northwood* was in the olden time a part of Parkhurst Forest, and was so called from its situation. Although the church is considered no other than a chapel of ease to the church of Carisbrooke, the living is a rectory annexed to that vicarage. At the northern extremity of this parish we have the town of West Cowes, situated at the mouth of the Medina river. Both West and East Cowes owe their origin to the erection of a castle or fort, on each side of the Medina, by Henry VIII. West Cowes stands on the declivity of a steep hill, and though it presents a very pleasing appearance from the water, a nearer inspection shews that the streets are narrow and inconvenient. Here are two episcopal churches, one of them erected during the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, and consecrated the year following the Restoration, by Bishop Morley, who endowed it with £20. per annum, provided that the inhabitants paid to the minister, who is always a person of their own choosing, the sum of £40. but in case of a failure on their part, the said endowment to be forfeited, and is now of the annual value of £236. The other chapel is of recent erection, and dedicated to the Holy Trinity, the incumbency of which is worth £84. and is in the patronage of the vicar of Carisbrooke. The town possesses a convenient market-house, which affords a good supply of meat, fish, and vegetables of all kinds. The population of the town exceeds 3,000, and is yearly on the increase.

The parish of *Calbourne*, which adjoins that of Northwood to the east, extends for several miles along the southern shore of the Solent. Calbourne is mentioned in the Domesday Book as a hundred within the hundred of Bowcombe, and as a manor belonging to the Bishop of Winchester. For many centuries the manor has been known as that of Swainston, by which name

it was recognised as early as the reign of Edward I. when that monarch dissevered it from the bishopric in revenge to the Pope for having appointed John de Pontisserra to the see, contrary to his Majesty's inclination. The village and church is situated near its centre, on a small stream from which it derives its name. The latter is a handsome structure in the Early English style, and contains an ancient tomb, inlaid with brass, representing a knight in complete armour, with his feet resting on a dog. The living is a rectory in the patronage of the bishop, the tythes of which have been commuted at £660. in addition to which there is a glebe of eighty acres, valued at £54. 12s. per annum. Near the village is Westover, the seat of the Hon. H. A. a'Court Holmes, M.P. a handsome mansion in a tasteful and embellished demesne; and not far distant is Swanston, where formerly stood one of the residences of the Bishops of Winchester, more recently the seat of the Barrington family, and now the property of Sir Richard Simeon, bart.

The disfranchised borough of *Newtown*, situated at the north-western extremity of the parish, was formerly a place of considerable importance. It is supposed to be the site of a town destroyed by the Danes in the tenth century then called Weatham. In the middle ages it was known as Francheville, and as such received a charter from Ethelmar, half brother of Henry III. and Bishop of Winchester; by which it was to enjoy all the liberties and franchises then enjoyed by the Bishop's boroughs of Taunton, Alresford, and Farnham. This grant was confirmed by Edwards II. and IV. and Queen Elizabeth; and it appears that, during the reign of the first-mentioned monarch, the mayor and burgesses formed a body corporate, and that the town possessed a weekly market on Wednesday, and an annual fair for three days on the feast of St. Mary Magdalene. At the commencement of the reign of Richard II. the town was entirely destroyed by the French, and has never recovered its former consequence, and since that period it has been known by its present name. Ancient documents point

out the direction of several streets in parallel lines, intersected at right angles by others ; and this is not to be wondered at, as the haven, on which the town is seated, affords the best security, and is able at high water to receive vessels of 500 tons burthen. The borough did not send members to Parliament previous to the 27th of Queen Elizabeth, and was placed in schedule A of the Reform Act. The franchise was nominally in the mayor and burgesses, but in reality in the hands of the Pelham and Holmes families, whilst the population of the place amounted to no more than ninety-five at the last census. The Town Hall, no longer required for corporate purposes, is now used as a Sunday school room, whilst its ancient furniture has been sold, and its proceeds applied to the rebuilding of an ancient chapel, which was for a long time in a ruinous condition. The living is a chapelry annexed to the rectory of Calbourn, the incumbent of which formerly paid 20s. per annum towards finding a priest for the inhabitants of Newtown, but during the episcopacy of Stephen Gardiner it was decreed that the rector, with the favourable aid of the inhabitants of Newtown, shall maintain at his own cost, *up-rising* and down-lying, a priest to reside in the house adjoining the churchyard, on consideration that the mayor and burgesses quit their claim to Longbridge, otherwise Magdalene's Croft, which does not now appear to be held by him.

Shalfleet is the next parish to the west, extending across the Island from the northern to the southern shore. It is called Seldefleet in the Doomsday Book, and at the period of its compilation contained a church and a mill, and was worth £25. The church was given by William Fitz Osbourne to the abbey of Lyra, and was afterwards held by the abbey of Bisham, in Berkshire ; but, after the dissolution of the monasteries, the impropriation of the great tythes were purchased by Chief Justice Fleming, and have ever since been in private hands. The village is situated near the Newtown river, a stream abounding with trout. The church is partly Norman, and partly of a later date, with a low

massive embattled tower, surmounted by a spire of more recent erection, and a remarkable Norman doorway, having a roughly sculptured impost or lintel, filling up the head of the arch, and said to represent a bishop whose arms are extended, and hands resting on animals representing griffins. The interior is spacious, and the only subject of complaint is, that some tasteless churchwardens have covered with thick coats of white-wash the elegant columns of Purbeck marble which separate the nave from its only aisle. The living is a vicarage of the annual value of £127. annexed to the rectory of Mottiston.

The diminutive parish and disfranchised borough town of *Yarmouth* is situated on the western side of the river Yar. The town is called in its more ancient charters Eremue, that of Yarmouth appearing for the first time in that granted in 1625, by James I. It was the first borough in the Island to which a charter of franchises was granted by one of the local lords, which was confirmed and extended by Edward I. Henry IV. Edward IV. Elizabeth, and James I. The charter granted by the last-mentioned monarch recites the previous grants, takes notice that the town was totally destroyed by fire by the French in the reign of Richard II. and that Henry VIII. had caused a castle to be built there for its better defence for the future. By the same document the mayor and burgesses were constituted a body corporate and politic, to consist of a mayor and twelve chief burgesses, with power to elect a high steward, town clerk, and sergeant-at-mace; to hold a market every Wednesday, and an annual fair on St. James's Day. Yarmouth, like Newtown, was a far more populous town five centuries ago than it is at present. It appears to have been regularly laid out, and to have been completely insulated. A small castle, or fort, erected by Henry VIII. said to be the site of an ancient church, still remains, and has a platform with eight guns, and houses for the garrison. The trade of the place is extremely limited; but a constant communication is kept up with Lymington, three miles distant, by

means of steam vessels. The town first sent members to Parliament in the 23rd of the reign of Edward I. but made no other return up to the 27th of Elizabeth, from which period it exercised the privilege without intermission till the passing of the Reform Act. Among various documents belonging to the corporation was a presentment made by the court leet jury, being the correspondence between the mayor and burgesses of Yarmouth, and the mayor and jurats of Hastings, 1407, in which the former put forward a claim for the town to be considered a lyme, or member of the cinque ports, which was disallowed by the latter. At the commencement of the present century a custom was still retained of the children of the place going from house to house, singing on the first day of the new year, the wassall song, which custom was probably derived from our Saxon ancestors, the words of which are :

Wassall, wassall, to your town,
 The cup is white and the ale is brown :
 The cup is made of the ashen tree,
 And so is the ale of good barley ;
 Little maid, little maid, turn the pin,
 Open the door and let me in ;
 God be here, and God be there,
 We wish you all a happy new year.

The church is a neat structure, with a tower of considerable altitude, and consists of a nave and chancel, with a small chapel separated from it, which contains a well executed monument, with a statue in white marble, to the memory of Admiral Sir Robert Holmes, who was governor of the Island in the reign of Charles II. and entertained that monarch at Yarmouth, in a house built purposely for his reception, but which has been converted into an inn. The living is a rectory in the gift of the crown, of the annual value of £43, and there are also in the town a Wesleyan and a Baptist chapel.

The adjoining parish of *Thorley* formed part of the possessions of Christchurch Priory, but at the Reformation the manor, impropriation of the great tythes and advowson of the vicarage passed into lay hands.

The church is of Norman foundation, and the vicarage, of the annual value of £100, is in the patronage of the Rev. James Penfold.

The pariah of *Freshwater* is situated at the western extremity of the Island, and is bounded on all sides, but the east, by the sea. The greater portion of it consists of a peninsula, formed by the river Yar, joined to the rest of the Island, on the south side, by a narrow isthmus, at a place called Freshwater Gate, over which the waves of the ocean are sometimes dashed, and thus mingle with the fresh water of the river. In the reign of Charles I. various gentlemen connected with the Island went to London to induce the government to allow money to repair the forts, and included a proposal for making the peninsula of Freshwater a place of retreat for the inhabitants of the Island, with their cattle, in any invasion which they could not withstand, by rendering it an island; which they proposed to effect by cutting through the narrow isthmus; but their solicitations, remarks Sir Richard Worsley, were only answered by good words and promises. At a short distance to the west of Yarmouth are those tremendous promontories which extend all round the peninsula, and are known as the Freshwater Cliffs. They vary in height, some of them being not less than six hundred feet above the level of the sea. The cliffs are in some places perpendicular, and in others impend over the shore as if tottering to their fall. At a short distance from the very sharp point of land which forms the western end of the Island, are the rocks known as the Needles. They at one time formed a portion of the Island, from which they were dis severed by the encroachments of the sea, and even within the memory of man were more prominent than they are at present. The Needles' light-house is built on the highest part of the western part of the Island, at an elevation of 715 feet above the level of the sea. The building is a low truncated cone, but its light may be distinctly seen at the distance of eleven leagues. These cliffs abound

with chasms and caves, of which the most famed is situated near Freshwater Gate. The principal entrance forms the rugged segment of a circle, about twenty feet high and thirty-five feet wide, and in depth 120 feet, and can only be entered at low water, and even then the access is very difficult, from the jutting crags and the lofty fragments of rocks which obstruct the passage. The village of Freshwater is situated near the centre of the parish on the right hand bank of the Yar. The church is an ancient edifice, and contains, in one of its aisles, (the burial place of the lords of manor of Aston, in this parish,) a raised tomb, exhibiting on a cross plate the representation of a man in armour; which being opened some years since, was found to be the skeleton of a man with his skull placed between his legs, which has led to the supposition that he had been engaged in some treasonable practices, and had suffered decapitation. The advowson of the rectory, which is of the value of £800, formerly belonged to the Crown, as an appendage to an ancient monastery, and was often granted to the captains of the Island, but it is now in St. John's College, Cambridge. Here is an endowed school founded under the will of D'Urry, 1714, with an income of £27. for sixteen poor children of the parish, who are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The small parish of *Brook* was formerly included in that of Freshwater, which it abuts on the east, and even as recently as the last century, the patronage of the rectory was claimed by St. John's College, Cambridge, as a chapelry belonging to Freshwater. The village is seated in a sheltered valley, formed by two lofty hills. The church is small, and consists of a nave and a chancel, with a low tower, which is partially enveloped with ivy. The living is a rectory of the annual value of £250, of which the Rev. Collingwood Fenwick is incumbent and patron. On Brook Down are several tumuli, each of which is encompassed by a fosse; vestiges of a Roman encampment and amphitheatre are also discernible.

The parish of *Mottiston* is separated from that of Brook by a narrow slip of the parish of Shalfleet. The manor is mentioned in the Domesday Book as Modrestone, but it was of small value, and contained neither church or mill. The manor was afterwards part of the possession of the ancient family of *De Insula*, but in 1374 it became the property of Sir Edward Chyke, whose descendants retained it for upwards of three centuries, among whom was Sir John Cheke, reputed the best Greek scholar of his day, the tutor and well known correspondent of Edward VI. The living is a rectory, to which is annexed the vicarage of Shorwell, of the net value of £203. in the gift of the Rev. Ebenezer Robinson.

Approaching to the southern point of the Island, is *Brixton*, or *Brighston*. The parish contains the manors of Lemerston and Uggeton, of which the former gave its names to its possessors soon after the Conquest, who here built and endowed an oratory for three priests. It afterwards passed by marriage into the family of the Tichbornes, of Tichborne, near Winchester, who retained it four hundred years. The manor of Uggeton formerly belonged to the Knight Templars, and on the suppression of that order was given to the Hospital of God's House, at Portsmouth; but on the dissolution of religious houses it was escheated to the Crown, and is now in private hands. The church is of a very primitive character, with a massive tower surmounted by a low spire of lead. The living is a rectory in the patronage of the Bishop of Winchester, the tythes of which have been commuted at £670. Here is an endowed school, with an income of £20. for the instruction of twenty poor children of the parishes of Brixton and Mottiston, of which the rector and two other trustees are the governors.

The parish of *Shorwell* was originally a chapelry of Carisbrooke, but was made a separate parish in the reign of Edward III. occasioned by the inconvenience of the inhabitants of the former burying their dead at

the parish church, especially in the winter time, a distance of four miles. The church, erected in the reign of Henry VIII. is neat and convenient, and the living comprises a sinecure rectory, valued at £20. in the patronage of Lady Mildmay, and a vicarage annexed to the rectory of Mottiston. Near the village is North-Court House, erected in the reign of James I. a fine specimen of the architecture of that age, situated in a richly wooded demesne, in which is a spring of pure water from which the parish takes its name.

Chale, one of the two most southern parishes in the Island, was formerly included in that of Carisbrooke, from which it was separated in the reign of Henry I. when the church was erected. The living is a rectory in the patronage of James Theobald, esq. of the net annual value of £334. The most prominent object in this parish is St. Catherine's Hill, the most lofty in the Island, being 840 feet above the level of the sea, which washes its base. On this eminence, a chapel, dedicated to St. Catherine, was erected in 1323, by Walter, Lord of the manor of Godyton, who assigned certain rents for a chantry priest to sing mass, and also to provide lights for the safety of such vessels as might come on that dangerous shore during the night. At the Reformation its revenues were sequestrated, and the chapel and residence of the priest pulled down, but the tower of the former was left standing. About seventy years ago the Brethren of the Trinity House erected, near the site of the chapel, a circular light-house; but it was found of no use when most required, the summit of the hill being totally obscured by vapours in bad weather, and it was therefore removed, when the ancient tower which is thirty-six feet in height, was repaired and strengthened. On the south-western declivity of the hill commences that fearful chasm, distinguished by the name of Black Gang Chine, formed partly by the violence of the sea and partly by two currents, which pour their waters down the steep. In some places the cliffs on either side of it are 500 feet high. These rocks are of the wildest

form, and in colour almost black, whilst there is scarcely to be seen a trace of vegetation. Chale Bay, which opens from the southern point of the Island, extending to the north-west about three miles, has at low water a fine broad beach, separated from the high country above by a continued range of perpendicular cliffs, extremely dangerous to ships; and it was here that the *Clarendon* was wrecked, in October, 1837, when twenty-five persons, out of a crew of only twenty-eight, were drowned. Near the spot another light-house has since been erected by the Trinity Board on a site given by R. Holford, esq. Sir Richard Worsley, in his History of the Isle of Wight, mentions that a quantity of gold dust was discovered under the cliffs, mixed with the sand, and that a number of dollars had occasionally been found there, which led him to believe that both were the contents of some Spanish ship wrecked in this dangerous bay. The church and village are situated on the southern declivity of St. Catherine's Hill, whilst several handsome mansions and pleasing villas have recently been erected on Chale Common. The parish abounds with stone of excellent quality for building, which is extensively quarried, and a vein of white sand, admirably adapted for the making of glass, has been recently discovered. There is at Chale an endowed school with an income of £21. 14s, originally founded, in 1724, for the education of the poor children of the parish.

The parish of *Kingston*, to the north of Chale, is almost surrounded by that of Shorwell, and the church is proportionably small, having been erected prior to the 13th. century, and the living is a rectory in the gift of H. G. Ward, esq. of the net annual value of £204.

The parish of *Gatcombe*, situated near the centre of the Island, comprises much pleasingly diversified scenery. The church is an ancient structure, with a square embattled tower, crowded with pinnacles. In a recess, in the north wall of the chancel, there is an effigy of a knight carved in oak, supposed to be that of the founder

of the church. Gatcombe House, the seat of a branch of the ancient family of Worsley, is beautifully situated on the declivity of a hill, in a delightfully wooded park, through which the river Medina flows. The living is a rectory in the patronage of the University of Oxford, of the net annual value of £646. By the will of the Rev. E. Worsley, a school was founded here in 1702, for the education of twenty-four children, for the support of which a rent-charge of £8.

SKETCH XXXIII.

ISLE OF WIGHT—EAST MEDINA.

Parishes.	Acres.	Assessment.	Population.
Whippingham - - -	4390	8168	2518
Wootton - - - -	530	769	51
Binstead - - - -	1140	1500	278
Arreton - - - -	8270	8139	1964
Codshill - - - -	6400	7363	1435
Niton - - - -	1170	2580	613
Whitwell - - - -	1920	2199	660
St. Lawrence - - -	350	580	114
Newchurch - - - -	8870	86304	8370
Bonchurch - - - -	430	1223	303
Shanklin - - - -	950	1687	462
Yaverland - - - -	670	1149	80
Brading - - - -	7350	10773	2701
St. Helen's - - - -	1880	2322	1373

THE parish of *Whippingham*, which extends seven miles along the eastern bank of the Medina, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as *Wipinge ham*, and was one of the parishes given by William Fitz Osborne to the Abbey of Lyra. The village is situated about four miles from Newport, on the road to East Cowes. The church is a small structure, principally of the early English style, with a tower and spire, and the living is a rectory in the patronage of the crown, of the net annual value of £756. The town of East Cowes, situated immediately opposite West Cowes forms a portion of this parish, though separated from it for ecclesiastical purposes, and contains a population of nearly 1,000.

Ship building is carried on to a considerable extent, and till recently the Custom-house for the island was here, but has been removed to the more important town of West Cowes, and the buildings converted into a station for the Preventative service. The district chapel is a handsome edifice, in the Norman style of architecture, of which the first stone was laid in 1831, by her present Majesty, then the Princess Victoria, and who was also present at its consecration. The cost of erection amounted to £3,000, raised by subscription, to which her Majesty and the Duchess of Kent were liberal contributors. Here is a chapel for Independents, and a National School supported by subscription, in connection with the Winchester Diocesan Society. The neighbourhood abounds with interesting features and finely varied scenery. On a brow of the hill, which rises immediately from the margin of the river, stands East Cowes Castle, a handsome structure, consisting of one square and two circular embattled towers, erected by Mr. Nash, for his own residence, and commanding a fine sea view. At a short distance to the north-east is Norris Castle, a magnificent structure, on the plan of an ancient castle, seated on an eminence, commanding prospects of the most cheerful and varied nature, both by sea and land. Near at hand is Osborne House, the favourite retreat of royalty, which has been so often described, that it remains only to add, that the manor was formerly called *Austerborne*, or the Eastborne, and that in the reign of Charles I. it was held by Eustace Man, esq. who, being alarmed lest the Long Parliament should make as free with private property as they had done with the revenues of the church, buried a large quantity of money and valuable property in a wood, still known as Money Coppice, but which he could never again find. Barton village is another ecclesiastical district of the parish of Whippingham, and contains about 700 inhabitants. The church is of the Norman style, and contains accommodation for 400. The living is a perpetual curacy, and is, with that of East Cowes, in the gift of the rector.

Here was formerly an oratory, founded by Bishop Pontissara in the reign of Edward I. which was subsequently the property of Winchester College. An antique building, known as Barton Manor House, has recently been pulled down to enlarge her Majesty's pleasure grounds. A small promontory to the south-east of Barton, still known as the King's Quay, is reported to be the spot on which King John landed in 1215, when he came to conceal himself from the barons in the Isle of Wight.

The parish of *Wootten* comprises two small tythings, *Wootten* and *Chillerton*, the former situated to the east of *Whippingham*, and the latter at the distance of eight miles from it, and in *West Medina*. The parish was taken out of *Whippingham*, in the reign of Henry III. when *Walter de Insula* built the church, and endowed it with glebe, arable, pasture, and woodlands, and the tythes of his demense lands of *Wootten* and *Chillerton*. The architecture of the present structure is of the period of Edward I. and the living is a rectory of the net value of £240, the Rev. R. W. White being the patron and incumbent. *Wootten Bridge* is a narrow causeway, over the *Fishbourne Creek*, or the *Wootten River*, 900 feet in length.

The parish of *Binstead* on the eastern side of the creek, became a district parish in consequence of a grant from William the Conqueror to *Walkelyn*, Bishop of Winchester, of half a hide of land for the purpose of digging stone for the building and repair of his cathedral. The old church, of Norman foundation, has given place to the present handsome structure, principally erected by the liberality and exertions of the present incumbent, the Rev. Philip Hewlett. A pleasant walk leads from the church-yard to the ruins of *Quarr Abbey*, of which few are now standing, but they are pleasingly secluded, being sheltered with woods, except where open to the sea shore. It derived its name from the stone quarries in its immediate neighbourhood, and was the store from which not only *Walkelyn*, but *William of Wykeham*, obtained their materials for their exten-

sive addition, in their cathedral church. The abbey was founded about the year 1023, for Cistercian monks, by Baldwin, Earl of Devon and lord of the island, whose body was interred in the chapel, as were those of his Countess, their son Henry, and Cecily, the second daughter of Edward IV. At its dissolution its revenues amounted to £184, according to Dugdale, arising principally from estates within the island. The site and demense were purchased by a builder of Southampton, who pulled down the greater portion of the buildings for the sake of the materials, and subsequently sold the estate to Lord Chief Justice Fleming, and is still held by the widow of his descendant, the late J. Fleming, esq. who has a delightful seat upon it. Most of the boundary wall, which includes upwards of 30 acres of ground, is yet standing, together with the remains of two gates, which formed the entrances on the north and south. The only building that remains entire is the ancient refectory, now used as a barn; and a wall, covered with ivy, is supposed to have been the eastern end of the church. The patronage of the rectory is in the bishop, and is of the net annual value of £55.

The parish of *Arretton* situated to the south of those of Binstead, Wootton, and Whippingham, was at the period of the compilation of the Domesday Book divided into a number of lordships several of which remain. On St. George's Down, at its eastern end, there is a level nearly a mile in length, commanding a view of the sea and the greatest part of the island, where the Earl of Southampton made a bowling green and built a house of accommodation near it, at which the gentlemen of the island used to dine twice a week. Sir John Oglander, who was a member of the society, in the reign of James I. has preserved a list of the names of the gentlemen who composed it; and notices among other circumstances, indicating a decline of the prosperity of the island, that in the year 1639, the ordinary was discontinued for want of company. The list contains many names familiar to the inhabitants of the Isle

of Wight; amongst which occur those of Fleming, Worsley, Oglander, White and Wavel. The village of Arreton is situated about three miles to the south-west of Newport, on the road to Brading, whilst its scattered cottages, remarkable for their neatness, extend for more than a mile. The church, an ancient structure, originally erected in the reign of William the Conqueror, contains several handsome monuments, to the memory of members of the Worsley and Holmes's families, and also an ancient brass effigy of a Knight Templar. The living is a vicarage, the tythes of which have been commuted at £245, to which there is a glebe of the value of £38 per annum, and is in the patronage of J. Fleming, esq. the impropiator of the great tythes, which formerly belonged to the monks of Quarr Abbey. Here are two schools, founded under the will of J. Mann, esq.—one for boys and the other for girls—which are endowed with a rent charge of £36, increased by subscriptions.

The adjoining parish of *Godshill* derives its name from the hill on which is seated, its ancient church, which is said to have obtained the designation by the miraculous interposition of Providence. As the story goes, the original architect of the church intended to erect it at the foot of the hill, and that the workmen began to build there, but one morning returning to their labours they found that all the stones and other materials had been removed during the night and placed at the top of the hill. They, however, recommenced their labour below, but it was all in vain, for during the following night the materials again found their way to the top of the hill. A council was held, at which it was decided that the stones and materials had been removed by the hands of God, and who by it had pleased to point out to them where the church should be erected, which was done accordingly. The present church is an ancient cruciform structure, with a tower of considerable height rising at the intersection, and contains various monuments of the Leigh and Worsley families, the former lords of the manor. The living is a vicarage,

annexed, with the chapelry of Whitwell, to the rectory of Niton. In the village there is a free school, founded in 1595, by P. Andrews, esq. and augmented by donations and bequests from the Worsley family, with an endowment of £27, and in it all poor children may be instructed in writing, reading, and arithmetic. About a mile to the south-west of the village of Godshill we have the spacious park and noble mansion of Apuldurcombe, the seat of the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough. Its name is derived from the British words *Y pwll y dwr y cwm*; signifying a pool of water in the hollow or recess of a hill. A priory was founded here in the Norman times, which was a cell belonging to the Abbey of Montsbury; and afterwards to the nuns without Aldgate, in London. The old Priory House, situated at a short distance from the present mansion, was thoroughly repaired in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and made a family residence; but was taken down at the commencement of the last century by Sir Robert Worsley, who, according to his own expression, left not one stone remaining on another. The same baronet commenced the present mansion, which stands in the midst of an amphitheatre of hills, commanding various extensive and pleasing objects, and from its magnitude and situation assumes an air of considerable grandeur. The house was finished by Sir Richard Worsley, the last baronet, and the historian of the island, and is of freestone with four fronts of the Corinthian order, with projecting buildings advancing from each front, and finished with pilasters and pediments. The interior is superbly decorated with sculpture, paintings and drawings, most of which were collected by Sir Richard in a tour through Italy, Spain, Greece, Egypt, Asia Minor and Tartary, during the years 1785, 86, and 87. The marbles and paintings are principally arranged in the entrance hall, which is fifty-four feet long and twenty-four feet broad, and is decorated with eight beautiful Ionic columns, of a composition resembling porphyry. The park, which is the most extensive in the island, is

studded with a vast quantity of magnificent beech and venerable oak trees, and on the highest point there is an obelisk of Cornish granite, seventy-feet high, erected in 1744.

The parish of *Niton*, commonly called Crab Niton, occupies the most southerly part of the Island. It possessed a church prior to the Norman Conquest, and was one of those given to the Abbey of Lyra. The present edifice is of an early date, consisting of two aisles and a stone tower. Without the wall of the churchyard there was formerly a stone cross, raised on steps, with a basin on the top, which was manifestly designed for the purpose of baptism, prior to the use of fonts in churches—a circumstance which gives this cross an antiquity of eight or nine hundred years. The living, which is a rectory, with the vicarage of Godshill and the chapelry of Whitwell annexed, of the annual value of £600. came to the Crown on the dissolution of religious houses, and was in 1636 given by Charles I. to Queen's College, Oxford, together with the rectories of Hadleigh and Weyhill, and the vicarages of Milford and Carisbrooke. It is a received opinion that at this parish the tin, which is supposed to have been brought over in carts from the Lymington shore, at the reflux of the tide was shipped for the continent. In support of this position, an artificial mound of earth on the most accessible part of the shore, called the Old Castle, is pointed out, imagined to be the spot where the tin, previously to exportation, was deposited. Another remnant of antiquity is a similar artificial mound, on the northern boundary of the parish, called Bury, which stands upon a base of thirty yards in diameter. At a small cove called Puckaster, King Charles II. landed, probably after some idle water excursion; an incident which is thus recorded in the parish register: "July 1, 1575—Charles the Second, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, &c. after he had endured a great and dangerous storm at sea, to the great joy of all, not excepting that of Thomas Collinson, rector of Nighton." The parish, which is one of the most hilly districts in

the Island, comprises an area of 1,170 acres, assessed at £2,580, and contains a population of 613.

Whitwell, the adjoining parish to the east, formerly belonged to the manor of Colbourne, and still more recently one part of it belonged to Godshill, and another part to Gatcombe, as is shown by a decree made by John Dowman, Vicar General and Chancellor of Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester, in a cause brought before him by the inhabitants of Whitwell against the vicar of Godshill and the rector of Gatcombe. The decree is in favour of the inhabitants, by which it appears that the present church of Whitwell consisted of two chapels, the one of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the other of St. Rademund; that the former was to be repaired and supported by the inhabitants of Whitwell parishioners of Godshill, and the latter by the rector of Gatcombe; that the inhabitants of Whitwell, parishioners of Godshill, were to be buried at Godshill, and the inhabitants of Whitwell, parishioners of Gatcombe, at Gatcombe.

Among the curious parish records there is, or was, in existence at the time of Sir Richard Worsley, a lease, dated 1574, of a house called the Church House, held by the inhabitants of Whitwell of the lord of the manor, and demised by them to John Brode, in which is the following proviso:—"Provided always, that if the quarter shall at any time need to make a quarter-ale or church-ale for the maintenance of the chapel, it shall be lawful for them to have use of the said house, with all the rooms both above and beneath, during their ale." The chapel of St. Rademund, and the chancel of the present church, was built and endowed by De Estuo, lord of the manor of Gatcombe, and the rector of that parish receives the rents with which the chapel was endowed, and officiated occasionally till within the last century. The church is an ancient edifice, and the living is a chapelry of the vicarage of Godshill.

Further eastward is the parish and church of *St. Lawrence*, which latter is the smallest of its kind in England, its interior measurement not exceeding twenty-three by thirteen feet; and its height is in proportion to

its extent, its eaves being within the reach of the hand of a tall man. The living is a rectory in the patronage of the Earl of Yarborough, of the annual value of £84. in addition to which there is a glebe valued at £22. The greatest part of the parish forms a portion of that romantic slip of ground, extending for six miles along the southern shore of the Island, and known as the *Undercliff*. The strip is from a quarter to half a mile in breadth, and has apparently been formed by a succession of land-slips, one of which occurred in the winter of 1810. The cliffs that immediately face the sea vary from sixty to one hundred feet in height, and on these there is a long and irregular platform, on the north of which there are abrupt steepes from 200 to 300 feet higher, which are composed of horizontal beds of sandstone, of the same material as that which composes the platform. The soil of the Undercliff is exceedingly fertile, and the trees which have been planted there grow rapidly. Snow is seldom seen, and frosts are only partially felt, whilst the myrtle, geranium, and other foreign plants, flourish luxuriantly in the open air throughout the year.

The parish of *Newchurch*, like that of *Shalfleet*, extends from the northern to the southern shore of the Island; is nine miles in length, and comprises within its limits the two fashionable watering places—*Ryde* and *Ventnor*. It contains a population exceeding that of any other parish in the Island, which is to be accounted for by the rapid increase of *Ryde* and *Ventnor*. The church, situated about the centre of the parish, is a venerable cruciform structure, standing on a rising ground, and forms an interesting feature in the landscape. It was one of the six granted by William Fitz Osbourne to the Abbey of *Lyra*; belonged afterwards to *Beaulieu Abbey*, and was given by *Henry VIII.* to his newly created see of *Bristol*; the Bishop of *Gloucester* and *Bristol* being still the patron of the living, which is a vicarage of the net annual value of £150.

The town of *Ryde*, which at the last census contained a population of 6,840, was at the commencement of the

eighteenth century inhabited only by a few fishermen. It was called *La Rye*, in old records; was burnt by the French in the reign of Richard II., and is mentioned as one of the places where a watch was to be kept for the security of the island. The town consists of two parts, lower and upper Ryde; the former is situated near the water's edge, under a steep bank, and is the more ancient portion, but now united by buildings to the upper part. The buildings consist principally of large modern cottages, constructed of stone from quarries in the immediate neighbourhood; and others of smaller dimensions are roofed with slate, imparting to the place a very cheerful and pleasing appearance, the greater number of which are let furnished, during the season, and in general command a view of the sea, including Spithead, and Portsmouth town and harbour, and, with the exception of the shops, are detached, and surrounded with small gardens. The town presents a peculiar picturesque appearance, very different from our English towns in general; the different buildings, interspersed with trees, seeming to rise one above another, the facility and accommodation for sea bathing, and the number of excellent hotels and boarding houses, render it an agreeable place of resort during the summer; and assembly rooms, an annual regatta, libraries, and a small theatre, which is open during the season, add to its attractions. The object for which the town is most celebrated is its noble Pier, extending 743 yards into the sea, constructed in 1814, under the provisions of an Act of Parliament obtained for the purpose. Not only does it afford an excellent landing place for passengers, but it is a truly delightful marine promenade, having convenient seats sheltered from the weather on both sides, along which a neat railing extends. A handsome market-house and town-hall, having a frontage of 200 feet, was completed in 1836. In addition to the profits derived from its numberless visitors, the town has the advantage of a large quantity of soles, lobsters and other fish being caught on its shores. That it is in a prosperous state is shown by its amazing increase, while nothing is want-

ing on the part of its spirited inhabitants to render it not only one of the most fashionable, but most attractive of watering places. In consequence of the distance of the town (six miles) from the parochial church, Thomas Player, esq. lord of the manor of Ryde, erected here, in 1790, a chapel dedicated to St. Thomas, and charged the manor with £10, payable to the vicar of Newchurch, to officiate therein, or to provide some person to officiate for him, but in consequence of the increase of the town, George Player, esq. erected in 1827 the present more extensive and commodious one, on the foundation of the old chapel, a neat edifice, in the early English style of architecture, with a well proportioned tower, rising to a considerable height, and terminated by a light spire. At a short distance from it is another episcopal chapel, erected by W. H. Hughes, esq. in 1827, of the later English style, having at the eastern end a fine window of stained glass. In another portion of the town a district church has also been recently erected and consecrated, and is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. There are places of worship for Independents and Wesleyans, and also a free school, in which 350 children are instructed on the National System, in connection with the Winchester Diocesan Society.

Ventnor, which is situated at the eastern extremity of the Undercliff, has risen into notice within the last twenty years. Its population at the last census was nearly one thousand, which probably at this time amounts to double that number. The church, to which a district has been assigned, is a handsome structure, in the early English style, with a spire 103 feet high; and was erected at the expense of £3,500, defrayed by John Hambrough, esq. of Steep Castle, who munificently endowed it with £1,000 and erected a parsonage house, at the expense of £2,500. There are places of worship for Independents and Wesleyans, and a National School, supported by subscription, aided by £30 from Mr. Hambrough, who rebuilt the school-house, on a large scale, in 1837.

The next parish, which is situated to the east of that

of Newchurch is *St. Boniface*, or Bonchurch, as it has long been corruptly termed. The church is a very small building, in the early Norman style, and was erected, it is said, soon after the Conquest by some monks, sent here by the Abbey of Lyrá, for the conversion of the fishermen of the southern shore of the island. The living is a rectory, with Shanklin annexed, of the net annual value of £134, in the gift of Charles Popham Hill, esq.

The parish of *Shanklin* originally formed part of Brading, from which it was separated at the period of the erection of its church in the reign of King Stephen, which is an ancient edifice, remarkable for its simplicity. The living is a chapelry annexed to Bonchurch, the rector of which formerly paid 10s. to the vicar of Brading as an acknowledgement of its being the mother-church, and for the right of the inhabitants of Shanklin to be interred in Brading churchyard. The village occupies a sequestered site, sheltered by lofty downs, which nearly enclose it on two sides, yet sufficiently elevated to command a fine view of Sandown Bay and the ocean. The most remarkable object of the parish is its romantic ravine or Chine, which commences about half a mile from the shore, and, gradually increasing in breadth and depth, becomes, as it opens to the sea, nearly sixty yards wide and ninety deep, and is overgrown with trees, shrubs, and brushwood, interspersed with bold masses of rock. Through the depths of the cavity flow the Shanklin rivulet, which rises to the south of the village; and after supplying the inhabitants with its pellucid waters, hurries down the Chine, and at one part forms a fall of about twenty feet.

The parish of *Yeverland* is surrounded by that of Brading, except on the south where it is bounded by the sea, and like Bonchurch it formerly formed part of Brading, and even to a recent date the sum of ten shillings^a was annually paid by the rector to the vicar of Brading, in acknowledgement of its being the mother-church. The living is a rectory in the gift of Mrs. A. Wright, the tythes of which have been commuted at

£240, in addition to which there is a glebe of 12 acres, valued at £24. The church is a small but ancient structure, erected soon after the Conquest, and has a fine Norman doorway, but the windows and details are of a much later date. Near to it is an old manor house, formerly the residence of the Russells, and afterwards of the Richards family, and now used as a farm house. It is a fine specimen of the Elizabethan style of architecture.

The parish of *Brading*, formerly written *Brerding*, is called *Beradinze* in the Domesday Book, and was at that period worth £20. Four centuries previous to the compilation of that work, Ina, King of Wessex, (so it is said) gave to the cathedral church of Winton, fifty hides in Brerding, and thirty hides in Everland (Yaverland); but there is no evidence to show that either the one or the other belonged to the church. The town, formerly of considerable importance, being styled the king's town of Brading, is situated to the south of an extensive sheet of water, at high tide, known as Brading harbour. It consists principally of one long street, the houses of which are irregularly built. It has a corn market on Mondays, and two annual fairs, held May 12th, and October 2nd. The inhabitants returned representatives to the Parliament of the 23rd of Edward I. but were afterwards excused on their own petition, which stated their inability to pay 4d. daily to each of them. It was probably incorporated during the reign of a sovereign of the line of Plantaganet, but the oldest charter extant is of the reign of Edward VI. 1547, by which the town was to be governed by its corporate officers, consisting of a senior and junior bailiff, a recorder, and thirteen jurats. The church is considered to be the most ancient religious foundation in the island, and it is asserted that it was erected by St. Wilfred, Bishop of the South Saxons, in 704, who is said to have baptised his first convert on the spot. The present edifice, though of a more recent date, is of an early age. It consists of a nave, side aisles, and chancel, with a tower at the west end. The pillars of

the nave are regarded as Saxon, but the arches which spring from them are pointed, whilst great alterations have been made in other portions of the church. At the extremity of each aisle there is a small chapel, one of which is the burial-place of the Oglander family, of Nunwell, whose ancestors have been settled in the parish from the time of the Conquest, and contains a monument to Sir John, and, his father, Sir William Oglander, on which there are their effigies, represented in complete armour, carved in wood. In the chancel, curiously cut, on a large slab, is the figure of a man in armour, with his feet resting on two dogs, together with figures, in artificial niches, of the Virgin with the Infant Saviour, and his twelve Apostles: round the margin there is a Latin inscription, in the Old English character, to the effect, that underneath is buried the body of John Cherowin, esq. constable of Porchester Castle, who died in 1441. The living is a perpetual curacy, of the net value of £250, in the patronage of the master and fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, who are also the impropiators of the tythes. In the reign of Henry III. the advowson and impropriation belonged to the priory of Wenlock, in Shropshire, and were afterwards transferred to the abbey of Breamore, in this county, and by that foundation were let to farm to the priory of St. Denys, near Southampton, with a condition that the alms to be given to the poor should be in no wise diminished. At the dissolution of religious houses they were granted to Henry Courtney, Marquis of Exeter, a descendant of the founder of Breamore Abbey; but, upon his attainder, this, and his other possessions, escheating to the crown, were given to Trinity College. Brading harbour is a large tract of marshy ground containing above eight hundred acres, covered every tide by the sea, which flows through a narrow inlet. Repeated attempts have been made to exclude the sea by an embankment, the last of which was made by Sir Hugh Middleton, the projector of the New River, London, who had effected it, when during a wet season, the works, which had been raised at the expense of £7,000, were completely destroyed by a spring tide.

At the southern side of the entrance of the harbour is the pleasant village of *Bembridge*, which formerly consisted only of a few fishermen's huts, but has within the few last years become a fashionable, though retired watering place. It is a district chapelry in the patronage of the vicar of Brading, and is returned at the annual value of £33. The peninsula of Bembridge is the tract of ground bounded on the north by Brading harbour, on the east and south by the ocean, and by the parish of Yaverland on the west, with which it was formerly connected by a bridge, hence the name Bembridge, or within bridge, and Yaverland, or over land. Sandown Fort, the most important marine fortification in the Island, situated on the south coast, is a regular quadrangular fortification, flanked with four bastions, situated on the level of the beach, and encompassed by a ditch, built in the reign of Henry VIII. but greatly strengthened during the reign of George III. Within half a mile of the fort is the villakin, as he was wont to call it, of the notorious John Wilkes, now the property of Charles Bridger, esq. of Winchester, in which the most popular man of his time spent the evening of his life, remote and forgetful of those plaudits which had urged him on from one excess to another. The house, or rather cottage, is delightfully situated, and commands a varied and pleasing prospect, and within a short distance a small town may be said to have started into existence. Nunwell, the ancient seat of the Oglanders, a family which settled in the Island at the Norman Conquest, is situated about one mile west of Brading, on a gentle eminence. The mansion is a plain building of brick, sheltered by a lofty grove of ash and elm trees, and the park, which is two miles in circumference, contains some fine oaks, and commands several extensive prospects.

The parish of *St. Helen*, is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the Island. Here was formerly a Priory of Cluniac monks, being a cell to some Norman Abbey now unknown, which, at the suppression of the Alien Priories, was given to Eton College. The site,

now occupied as the residence and grounds of H. Smith, esq. is still known as the Priory, and is held under Eton College, in the lease of which there is said to be a proviso, that every fellow of Eton College, travelling through the Island, shall be accommodated with a night's lodging, and other necessities. The present church was erected about one hundred and forty years ago, the previous erection was situated at the extremity of the parish, so near the sea that the waves washed away a great part of the churchyard, and even endangered the building itself, so that the inhabitants pulled it down, save the tower, which was left as a sea mark. A district chapel, dedicated to St. John, has been recently erected and endowed. The parochial church is a perpetual curacy in the gift of Eton College, of the annual value of £118.

APPENDIX (A).

THE COUNTY DIVISIONS

With the Parishes which they respectively comprehend.

ALTON.—The whole of the Parishes of the Alton Poor Law Union, and those of Kingsley and Headley in the Farnham Union.

ANDOVER.—The Hampshire Parishes of the Union of that name, with the exception of such, or parts of such, as are included in the Borough of Andover, together with the Parishes of Hurstbourn Priors and St. Mary Bourne in the Whitechurch Union, and those of Longstock, Leckford, Stockbridge, Nether Wallop and Over Wallop, which are in the Stockbridge Union.

BASINGSTOKE.—The Hampshire Parishes of the Basingstoke Union.

DROXFORD.—The Parishes of the Union of that name.

FAREHAM.—The Parishes of the Fareham and Havant Unions and the Parish of Alverstoke.

LYMINGTON.—The Parishes of the Lymington and New Forest Unions.

ODHAM.—The Parishes of the Hartley Wintney Union, and those of Aldershott, Long Sutton, Farnborough and Yately in the Farnham Union.

PETERSFIELD.—The Parishes of the Petersfield and Cathedral Unions, and the Parish of Bramshott in the Farnham Union.

ROMSEY.—The Parishes of the Union of that name, with those of East and West Tytherly, King's Sombourne, Broughton, Bossington and Houghton in the Stockbridge Union, and North Baddesley in the Hursley Union.

RINGWOOD.—The Parishes of the Christchurch and Ringwood Unions, and the Hampshire Parishes of the Fordebridge Union.

SOUTHAMPTON.—The Parishes of the South Stoneham Union and Chilworth in the Hursley Union.

WINCHESTER.—The Parishes of the New Winchester Union, with the exception of such, or parts of such, as are included in the City and Borough of Winchester, those of the Alresford Union, those of Hursley and Otterbourne in the Hursley Union, and those of Little Sombourne and Astley in the Stockbridge Union.

ISLE OF WIGHT.—The Parishes of the Island.

APPENDIX (B).

The Hampshire Poor Law Unions with their respective parishes.

ALRESFORD.—New Alresford, Old Alresford, Beauworth, Bighton, Bishop's Sutton, Brown Candover, Bramdean, Cheriton, Chilton Candover, Hinton Amptner, Itchen Stoke, Kilmiston, Northington, Ovington, Ropley, Swaraton, Titchborne, and West Tisted.

ALTON.—Alton, Bentley, Bentworth, Binsted, Chawton, East Tisted, East Worldham, Farrington, Froyle, Hartley Mauditt, Holybourn, Lasham, Medstead, Neatham, Newton Valence, Selborne, Shalden, West Worldham, and Wield.

ANDOVER.—Abbot's Ann, Andover, Ampert, Appleshaw, Barton Stacey, Bullington, Chilbolton, Faccombe, Field, Foxcote, Goodworth Clatford, Grately, Hurstborne Tarrant, Knight's Enham, Kimpton, Linkenholt, Longparish, Monxton, Penton Grafton, Penton Mewsey, Quarley, Shipton Bellinger, Thruxton, South Tidworth, Tangley, Upper Clatford, Vernham's Dean and Wherwell; besides four places in Wiltshire.

BASINGSTOKE.—Basingstoke, Old Basing, Bramley, Bradley, Cliddesden, Dean, Dummer, Eastrop, Farleigh Wallop, Hartley Westpall, Herriard, Illisfield, Maplederwell, Nately Scures, Newnham, Nutley, Oakley, Pamber, Popham, Preston Candover, Sherborne St. John, Sherfield, Silchester, Steventon, Stratfield Turgis,

- Stratfield Saye, Tunworth, Upper Natley, Upton Grey, North Waltham, Weston Patric, West Sherborne, Winslade, Worting, Wooton St Lawrence, Woodmancote, and one parish in Berkshire.
- CATHERINGTON. — Blendworth, Catherington, Chalton, Clarksfield and Idsworth.
- CHRISTCHURCH. — Christchurch, Holdenhurst and Sopley.
- DROXFORD. — Bishop's Waltham, Corhampton. Droxford, Durley, Exton, Hambledon, Meon Stoke, Soberton, Upham, Warnford, and West Meon.
- FAREHAM. — Boarhunt, Fareham, Portchester, Rowner, Southwick, Titchfield, Wickham, Widley and Wymering.
- FORDINGBRIDGE. — Breamore, North Charford, South Charford, Fordingbridge, Hale, and Rockbourne, with their parishes in Wiltshire.
- HARTLEY WINTNEY. — Bramshill, Crondall, Dogmersfield, Elvetham, Eversley, Grewall, Hartley Wintney, Heckfield, Mattingley, Odiham, Rotherwick, South Warnborough and Winchfield.
- HAVANT. — Bedhampton, Farlington, Havant, North Hayling, South Hayling and Warblington.
- HURSLEY. — North Baddesley, Farley Chamberlayne, Hursley and Otterbourne.
- KINGSCLERE. — Ashmansworth, Baughurst, Burghclere, Crux Easton, Ewhurst, Hannington, Highclere, Itchingswell, Kingsclere, Litchfield, Sidmonton, Tadley, Woodcott, East Woodhay, and Woolverton.
- LYMINGTON. — Boldre, Brockenhurst, Hordle, Lymington, Milford, and Milton.
- NEW FOREST. — Beaulieu, Bramshaw, Dibden, Eling, Exbury, Fawley, Lyndhurst, and Minstead.
- PETERSFIELD. — Buriton, Colemore, East Meon, Froxfield, Greatham, Hawkey, Liss, Petersfield, Priors Dean, Privett, Sheet, and Empshott.
- PORTSEA ISLAND. — Portsmouth and Portsea.
- RINGWOOD. — Burley, Ellingham, Harbridge, Ibsley and Ringwood.
- ROMSEY. — East Dean, East Wellow, Lockerly, Michaelmersh, Mottisfont, Nursling, Romsey Infra, Romsey Extra, Sherfield English and Timsbury; besides two places in Wiltshire.

SOUTH STONEHAM.—Botley, Bursledon, Chilworth, Hamble, Hound, Millbrook, North Stoneham, South Stoneham and St. Mary Extra.

SOUTHAMPTON.—The Six Parishes of the Town of Southampton.

STOCKBRIDGE.—Ashley, Bossington, Broughton, Houghton, King's Somborne, Little Somborne, Leckford, Longstock, Stockbridge, East Tytherley, West Tytherley, Nether Wallop, Over Wallop, and West Dean in Wiltshire.

WHITCHURCH.—Ashe, Freefolk, Hnrstbourne Priors, Overton, St. Mary Bourne, Tufton and Whitchurch.

WINCHESTER.—The Twelve Parishes of the City and Borough, and the rural Parishes of Bishopstoke, Chilcomb, Compton, Compton, Crawley, Easton, East Stratton, Headbourn Worthy, Hunton, Itchen Abbas, King's Worthy, Littleton, Martyr Worthy, Milland, Mitcheldever, Morestead, Owslebury, Sparsholt, Stoke Charity, Week, Winnal and Wonston.

THE ISLE OF WIGHT.—The Thirty Parishes into which the Island is divided.

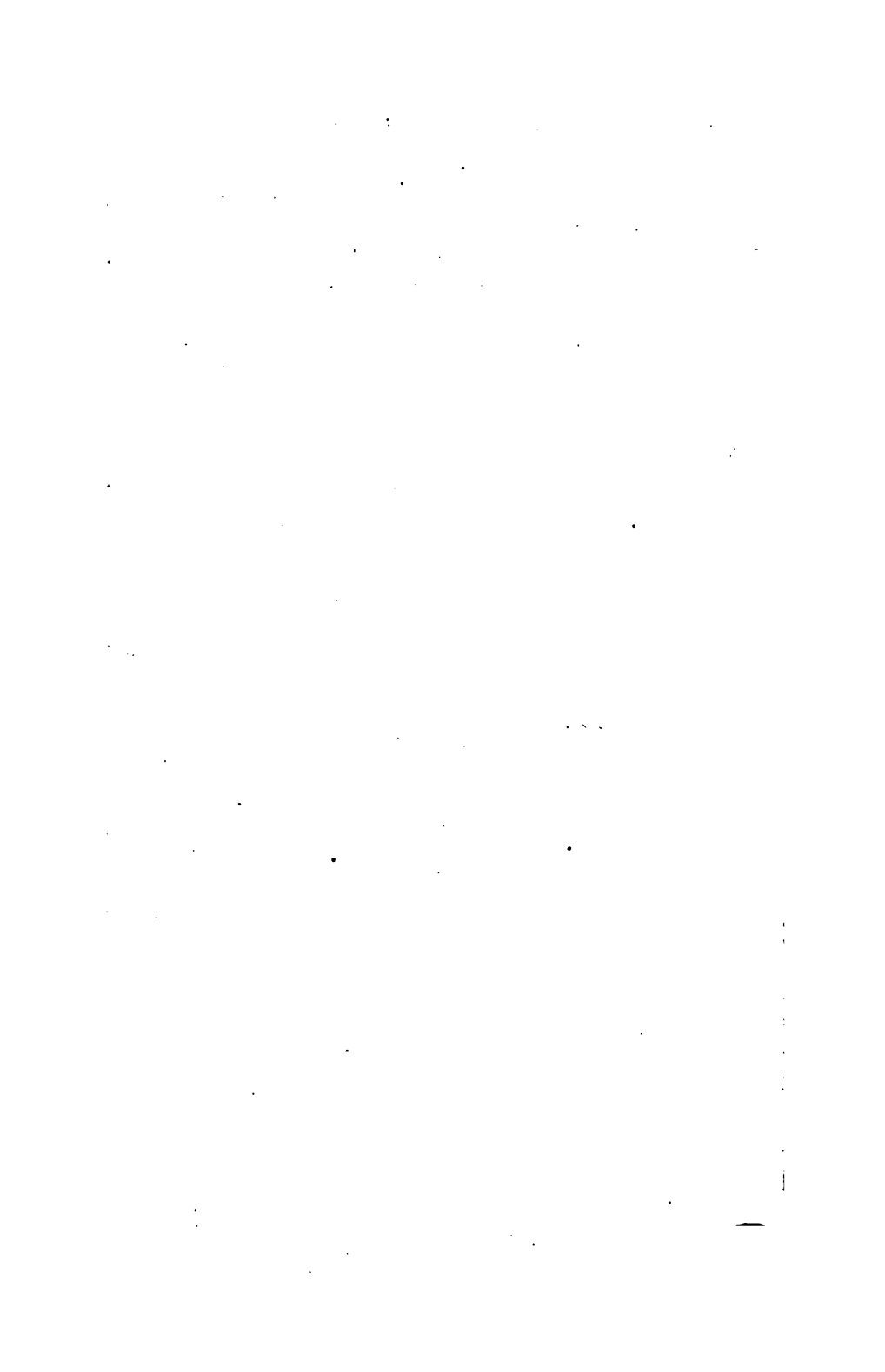
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